

2012 CLEMSON TIGER FOOTBALL



Clemson Tigers vs. Auburn Tigers

Game 1:
Clemson vs. Auburn
 Chick-Fil-A Kickoff Game
 Saturday, September 1, 2012
 Kickoff: 7:05 PM
 Georgia Dome
 Atlanta, GA

Television : ESPN
Announcers: Brad Nessler, Todd Blackledge, Holly Rowe

Clemson Radio Network
Announcers: Pete Yanity, Will Merritt, Patrick Sapp

Series History:
Auburn leads 34-12-2
 at Clemson: Auburn leads 10-6-1
 at Auburn: Auburn leads 19-4
 at Neutral: Auburn leads 5-2-1
 First Meeting: Auburn 34, Clemson 0 in 1899
 Last Meeting: Clemson 38-24 at Clemson
 Last Auburn Win: 27-24 (OT) at Auburn, 2010
 Streak: Auburn won 14 of last 15

CLEMSON 2012 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Result/TV	Score/Time
Sept. 1	Auburn	ESPN	7:00 PM
Sept. 8	BALL STATE	ACC	12:30 PM
Sept. 15	FURMAN	FSS	3:00 PM
Sept. 22	at Florida State		
Sept. 29	at Boston College		
Oct. 6	GEORGIA TECH		
Oct. 20	VIRGINIA TECH		
Oct. 25	at Wake Forest		
Nov. 3	at Duke		
Nov. 10	MARYLAND		
Nov. 17	NC STATE		
Nov. 24	SOUTH CAROLINA		

CLEMSON SID CONTACTS

Assistant AD/SID for Football:
 Tim Bourret, Notre Dame 1977
Associate SID/Secondary Football Contact:
 Brian Hennessy, Clemson 1998
Sr. Associate SID: Sam Blackman, Clemson 1985
clemson.tigers.com Libby Kehn, Clemson 2002
Associate SID: Philip Sikes, Clemson 2002
Assistant SID: Jeff Kallin, Clemson '2007
SID Office Phone: (864) 656-2114
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Press Box: (864) 654-3326
SID Address: P.O. Box 31, Clemson, SC 29633
Overnight Mailing Address: 100 Perimeter Road, Clemson, SC 29634
Ticket Office: 1-800-CLEMSON

Clemson Tigers

Record, 2011 10-4, 6-2 ACC
 Location Clemson, SC
 Colors Burnt Orange and Northwest Purple
 Enrollment 19,453
 Athletic Director Dr. Terry Don Phillips
Head Coach..... **Dabo Swinney, Alabama '93**
 Clemson Record/4th full year as head coach.....29-19
 Home Record20-4
 Away Record7-11
 Neutral Record2-4
 vs. ACC Teams (includes Champ Games)20-10
 Career Record/3rd full season.....29-19
 Record against Auburn1-1
 Offensive Coordinator..... Chad Morris
 Defensive Coordinator.....Brent Venables

Auburn Tigers

Record, 2011 8-5, 4-4 in SEC
 Location Auburn, AL
 Colors Burnt orange and Navy Blue
 Enrollment25,078
Head Coach..... **Gene Chizik (Florida '85)**
 School Record/4th season30-10
 Overall (6th Season).....35-29
 Record vs Clemson1-1
 Offensive Coordinator.....Scott Loeffler
 Defensive Coordinator..... Brian VanGorder
 Football SID.....Shelly Poe
 Phone (334) 844-9800
 E-mail slp0019@auburn.edu
 Website:.....www.auburntigers.com

MEDIA INFORMATION

Dabo Swinney Press Conference

Head Coach Dabo Swinney holds his weekly press conference each Tuesday at the West Endzone Team Room of Clemson Memorial Stadium. He will be available at 11:00 AM. The press conference will also be available over clemson.tigers.com.

Clemson players will be available after Swinney's press conference. Coach Swinney is also available each Sunday after a game at 6:00 PM. Contact Tim Bourret for the number. Swinney is also available on the ACC teleconference on Wednesday and after practice on Thursday.

ACC Teleconference

Each ACC coach is available on the ACC teleconference every Wednesday throughout the season for 10 minutes. Coach Swinney is available at 10:40 AM each Wednesday. To get the number contact the ACC office.

10:30 AM	Frank Spaziani, Boston College
10:40 AM	Dabo Swinney, Clemson
10:50 AM	Jimbo Fisher, Florida State
11:00 AM	Randy Edsall, Maryland
11:10 AM	Tom O'Brien, NC State
11:20 AM	Jim Grobe, Wake Forest
11:30 AM	Paul Johnson, Georgia Tech
11:40 AM	Larry Fedora, North Carolina
11:50 AM	Mike London, Virginia
Noon:	Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech
12:10 PM	David Cutcliffe, Duke
12:20 PM	Al Golden, Miami (FL)

For ACC Information go to: www.theacc.com
 This site will have the latest ACC release and a link to the football media guide.

Clemson Player Interviews

Contact SID Tim Bourret each Sunday before 3:00 PM at (864) 656-1926 with specific player requests for the week. We will conduct player interviews on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10:30 to 2:30 PM at the second floor player lounge of the West Endzone at Memorial Stadium. Offensive coordinator Chad Morris is available on Mondays during the lunch hour and defensive coordinator Brent Venables is available Tuesdays during the lunch hour.

ACC Satellite Feed

Broadcast media outlets will be able access ACC football highlights and press conference excerpts via the ACC Video Clip Service (AVCS) throughout the football season. This video content will only be available for download in a digital file format that can be accessed on the AVCS. To register for this service contact Scott McBurney, Assistant Commissioner/ACC Advanced Media, at smcburney@theacc.org or call 336.851.6067.

Clemson Personnel Update

***Justin Parker (LB)** Out with a groin injury
•Gifford Timothy (OT) Questionable with a knee injury
•Daniel Rodriguez (WR) Questionable with a shoulder injury
•Tony McNeal (QB) Out for season with torn ACL.
•Martin Jenkins (CB) Questionable with a hip injury.



2011 Final STANDINGS

Atlantic Division

Team	ACC	Home	Away	Over
Clemson	6-2	7-0	2-2	10-4
Florida State	5-3	5-2	3-2	9-4
Wake Forest	5-3	4-3	2-3	6-7
NC State	4-4	6-1	1-4	8-5
Boston College	3-5	2-4	2-4	4-8
Maryland	1-7	2-5	0-4	2-10

Coastal Division

Team	ACC	Home	Away	Over
Virginia Tech	7-1	5-1	6-0	11-3
Georgia Tech	5-3	5-2	3-2	8-5
Virginia	5-3	4-3	4-1	8-5
North Carolina	3-5	6-1	1-4	7-6
Miami	3-5	4-3	2-3	6-6
Duke	1-7	1-6	2-3	3-9

THIS WEEK'S ACC GAMES

Friday, August 31

NC State vs. Tennessee ESPN 7:30 PM

Saturday, September 1

Clemson vs. Auburn ESPN 7:00 PM
 Richmond at Virginia RSN 3:00 PM
 William and Mary at Maryland ESPN3 3:00 PM
 Elon at North Carolina ACC 12:30
 Miami at Boston College ABC 3:30 PM
 Murray State at Florida St. ESPN3 6 PM
 Liberty at Wake Forest ESPN3 6:30 PM
 Florida International at Duke ESPN3 7 PM

Monday, September 3

Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech ESPN 8 PM

NEXT WEEK'S ACC GAMES

Saturday, September 8

Penn State at Virginia ABC Noon
Ball State at Clemson ACC 1230 PM
 Maine at Boston College ESPN3 1 PM
 Austin Peay at Virginia Tech ESPN3 1:30 PM
 North Carolina at Wake Forest RSN 3 PM
 Savannah State at Florida State ESPN3 6 PM
 Presbyterian at Georgia Tech ESPN3 7 PM
 Maryland at Temple ESPNU Noon
 Miami at Kansas State Fox Noon
 NC State at UCONN Big East Noon
 Duke at Stanford P12 10:30 PM

Clemson Pronunciations

Dabo Swinney DA-boh SWEE knee
 Jaron Brown juh-Rahn
 Charone Peake Shuh-RAHN
 Patrick DeStefano deh-STE-feh-noh
 Stephone Anthony Steh-FAHN
 Ammon Lakip A-muhn LAY-kip
 Brian Symmes SIHMZ
 Qandon Christian KWAHN-duhn
 Darrell Smith Dayr-uhl
 Tajh Boyd as in Taj Mahal
 Philip Fajgenbaum FAY-gehn-bomb
 Kalen Davis KAY-len

Clemson vs. Auburn Series

Auburn has a 34-12-2 lead in the series with Clemson. Auburn had won 14 straight in the series prior to last year's Clemson victory at Death Valley. Clemson had not won since 1951 prior to that.

Two of the last three meetings between the two teams have gone to overtime, and Auburn has won both, 23-20 in the 2007 season Chick-fil-A Bowl and 27-24 at Auburn in 2010.

Clemson beat Auburn five times in six meetings under Head Coach Frank Howard from 1946-51. Included in that stretch was a 34-18 Clemson win in 1947 as Bobby Gage threw four touchdown passes and gained 374 yards of total offense, both single game records at the time.

Auburn and Clemson first met in 1899 and Auburn came away with a 34-0 win at Auburn. That was just the 14th game in Clemson history. John Heisman coached Auburn in that game. Clemson won three of the next four, including a 16-0 win at Auburn in 1902. Clemson's coach in that game was John Heisman. So Heisman gained wins for both teams in this series and both games were played at Auburn.

The two schools have met just four times since 1971, and two of those meetings took place in Atlanta at the Georgia Dome for the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Auburn won both of those close games, 21-17 at the 1998 Chick-fil-A bowl (1997 season), and Auburn won on New Year's Eve of 2007 by a 23-20 score in overtime. That is Clemson's only overtime game in a bowl contest.

In that 21-17 Auburn victory in the 1998 Chick-fil-A Bowl, Clemson gained just 146 yards of total offense, 60 rushing and 86 passing. Despite the offensive problems, Clemson had a 17-6 lead entering the fourth period. But, Auburn scored 15 points in the fourth period to gain the victory. Raymond Priester led Clemson with 19-62 rushing, but Nealon Greene completed just 11-26 passes for 86 yards. Clemson had just four first downs in the game, fewest in history for the Tigers in a bowl game.

Terry Bowden was the head coach for Auburn in that game. Two years later his brother came to Clemson as the head coach and coached against Auburn for Clemson in the 2007 Chick-fil-A Bowl, a game won by Auburn in overtime 23-20.

Last year was Auburn's first game at Clemson since 1970. That year Auburn beat Clemson 44-0 on Clemson's Homecoming. After the game first-year head coach Hootie Ingram started his postgame press conference by asking, "Who is on the Homecoming Committee."

Comeback Victories for Clemson and Auburn

This will be the rubber match so to speak of the recent history of the Clemson vs. Auburn series. Auburn won the 2010 meeting at Auburn 27-24 in overtime. Clemson won last year at Clemson, 38-24. The game in the Georgia Dome will decide the trilogy.

Getting off to a good start has not been the key to victory in the previous two meetings. In the 2010 game at Auburn, Clemson jumped out to a 17-0 lead in the second period. Auburn did not get on the scoreboard until the final play of the first half on a field goal. Auburn then won in overtime, 27-24.

Last year, Auburn got off to a 21-7 lead in the second period before Clemson scored two touchdowns in the final five minutes of the first half to tie the score at halftime. Clemson actually scored 38 of the last 41 points of the game to win 38-24.

Last Game between Auburn and Clemson in Georgia Dome

Auburn 23, Clemson 20 (OT)
 Dec. 31, 2007

Chick-fil-A Bowl, Atlanta, GA

Kodi Burns' seven-yard touchdown run in overtime gave #21 Auburn a 23-20 victory over #15 Clemson in the Chick-fil-A Bowl in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA on December 31, 2007.

Clemson scored 10 points early in the fourth quarter to take a 17-10 lead, but Auburn responded with a game-tying drive and converted a fourth down in overtime before earning the walk-off victory.

Auburn debuted its spread offense, as Burns and starter Brandon Cox rotated at quarterback, leading Auburn to 423 yards and 24 first downs. Auburn took advantage of the absence of Clemson senior starting linebackers Nick Watkins and Tramaine Billie along with a Clemson defense that played 23 players, none of which were seniors.

Burns rushed for a team-high 69 yards and a score on 13 carries along with a 22-yard touchdown pass, while Brad Lester added 57 rushing yards. Cox was 25-39 passing for 211 yards as well.

Clemson totaled 12 first downs, 293 yards of offense, and ran only 73 plays against Auburn's 90 plays. Clemson also had nine non-scoring drives of three plays or less. However, Clemson did not commit a turnover and was flagged for just one penalty.

C.J. Spiller led Clemson with 112 yards on eight carries and a touchdown. Spiller, who was named Offensive MVP of the Chick-fil-A-Bowl, also totaled a team-season-high 218 all-purpose yards. James Davis added 72 yards on 23 carries, while Aaron Kelly had four catches for 36 yards.

Spiller put Clemson ahead 7-3 in the first half when he sprinted 83 yards for a score to give Clemson a 7-3 lead early in the second quarter. It was the longest rush by a Clemson player since 1993 and the longest ever in Clemson bowl history. It was also the longest in the history of the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Clemson led 7-3 at the half.

Auburn wasted little time regaining the lead in the third quarter, as it drove 78 yards in 10 plays on its scoring drive. It was capped by Burns' 22-yard touchdown pass to Mario Fannin on third-and-seven. It was the freshman's only completion of the game.

On third-and-four in the third period, Spiller appeared trapped behind the line. However, he bounced outside and turned the corner for a 20-yard run. Harper's quarterback sneak on fourth down gave Clemson a first-and-goal. But Auburn's defense was up to the task and Clemson settled for Buchholz's 22-yard field goal on the first snap of the fourth quarter to tie the score.

Four plays later, Crezdon Butler deflected Cox's pass and wound up with the interception at the Auburn 32. Clemson capitalized on the game's only turnover when Davis scored on a one-yard plunge on fourth-and-goal. Earlier in the drive, Kelly caught a 27-yard pass on third-and-nine.

But Clemson's 17-10 lead was short-lived, as Auburn traversed 70 yards in 11 plays to tie the score. Cox's 18-yard pass to Robert Dunn on third-and-five moved the ball into Clemson territory. Four plays later, Burns rumbled 15 yards to the Clemson one. Ben Tate carried the ball into the endzone on the next play with 8:27

NATIONAL RANKINGS

**Associated Press Top 25
(Preseason, 2012)**

Rk	School (First Place)	Pts	LW
1.	Southern California (25)	1445	6
2.	Alabama (17)	1411	1
3.	LSU (16)	1402	2
4.	Oklahoma (1)	1286	16
5.	Oregon	1274	4
6.	Georgia	1107	19
7.	Florida State	1093	23
8.	Michigan (1)	1000	12
9.	South Carolina	994	9
10.	Arkansas	963	5
11.	West Virginia	856	17
12.	Wisconsin	838	10
13.	Michigan State	742	11
14.	Clemson	615	22
15.	Texas	569	NR
16.	Virginia Tech	548	21
17.	Nebraska	485	24
18.	Ohio State	474	NR
19.	Oklahoma State	430	3
20.	TCU	397	14
21.	Stanford	383	7
22.	Kansas State	300	15
23.	Florida	214	NR
24.	Boise State	212	8
25.	Louisville	105	NR

Others receiving votes: Notre Dame 83, Washington 55, Auburn 53, North Carolina 32, Utah 30, GeorgiaTech 25, BYU 22, Tennessee 15, South Florida 11, Baylor 9, TexasA&M 5, UCF 4, Missouri 3, NC State 3, Cincinnati 3, Houston 1, Louisiana Tech 1, Mississippi State 1, Northern Illinois 1

**USA Today/Coaches Top 25 Coaches Poll
(Preseason 2012)**

Rk.	Team (1st place)	Pts.	Prv
1.	Oklahoma (18)	1403	2
2.	Alabama (20)	1399	1
3.	Southern Cal (19)	1388	NR
4.	Oklahoma	1276	15
5.	Oregon	1258	4
6.	Georgia	1061	20
7.	Florida State	1055	23
8.	Michigan	1023	9
9.	South Carolina	981	8
10.	Arkansas	948	5
11.	West Virginia	833	18
12.	Wisconsin	743	11
13.	Michigan State	717	10
14.	Clemson	598	22
15.	Texas	549	NR
16.	Nebraska	501	22
17.	TCU	499	13
18.	Stanford	497	7
19.	Oklahoma State	476	3
20.	Virginia Tech	461	17
21.	Kansas State	398	16
22.	Boise State	271	6
23.	Florida	250	NR
24.	Notre Dame	166	NR
25.	Auburn	66	NR

Others: Washington 64, Louisville 46, Georgia Tech 35, Cincinnati 32, Texas A&M 28, Baylor 23, Utah 22, Mississippi State 21, South Florida 12, NC State 11, Louisiana Tech 10, BYU 10, Virginia 9, Houston 7, Southern Miss 6, Rutgers 5, UCF 5, Tennessee 3, Missouri 3, Florida International 3, Northern Illinois 2, Texas Tech 1.

remaining in the game.

Both teams drove into the other team's territory later in the fourth quarter, but neither could get close enough to attempt a go-ahead field goal.

Clemson got the ball first in overtime. On third-and-two, Davis carried just far enough for a first down at the 15. But on third-and-three from the eight, Harper's pass fell incomplete. Buchholz then booted a 25-yard field goal to give Clemson a 20-17 lead.

Facing a third-and-13, Cox connected with Smith for 12 yards. On fourth-and-one, Auburn elected to go for the first down and got it on Cox's quarterback sneak. Three plays later on third-and-three, Burns took the shotgun snap and scampered seven yards for the game-winning touchdown.

Kavell Conner and Chris Clemons, both of whom are now in the NFL, led the Clemson defense with 15 tackles apiece, while Michael Hamlin added 14 tackles, including 10 in the first quarter, and two tackles for loss. Chris Chancellor had four pass breakups as well.

**September 18, 2010 at Auburn, AL
Auburn 27, Clemson 24 (OT)**

Wes Byrum kicked a 39-yard field goal in overtime and No. 16 Auburn beat Clemson 27-24 in a thrilling game at Auburn. The game appeared headed to another OT when Chandler Catanzaro made a 27-yard field goal on Clemson's possession, but a penalty was called on Clemson snapper Matt Skinner for flinching on his snap. After a 5-yard illegal procedure penalty on the kick, the kick was missed and Auburn had the victory, its only overtime victory in its 2010 National Championship season.

Clemson, which had opened with lopsided wins over North Texas and Presbyterian, had a fast start in front of the biggest crowd the program had played in front of (87,451). He Tigers jumped to a 17-0 lead behind the passing of Kyle Parker who threw a pair of scoring passes to running back Jamie Harper.

Auburn's normally prolific offense didn't get a first down - or a completion - until the 6:54 mark of the second quarter. Auburn's only points of the first half came with Wes Byrum's 35-yard field goal as time expired.

Parker was 20-34 for 220 yards and the two scores for the game. He was not as effective in the second half after he suffered a rib injury on a hit by an Auburn defensive player. Running back Andre Ellington had 22-140 rushing and 4-48 receiving, giving the sophomore 188 yards from scrimmage. Harper had three catches for 48 and added 44 rushing, and tight end Dwayne Allen had five catches for 66 yards.

Cam Newton completed just 7-14 passes, but they went for 203 yards and a pair of touchdowns, including a 78-yarder to Terrell Zachery in the third quarter to give Auburn its first lead at 24-17. Newton also ran for 68 yards but was intercepted twice. Auburn scored 21 points in the third quarter thanks to 258 yards of total offense to take a 21-17 lead. The big play was a 78-yard scoring pass from Newton to Zachery. Clemson tied the game at 24-24 on a two-yard run by Ellington with 12:36 left, but neither team could get a scoring drive going over the remainder of the game.

Clemson threatened to score go-ahead points after pushing the ball near midfield on its final drive of regulation but Auburn stuffed a reverse. Then Parker's third-and-long pass under pressure was just out of Dwayne Allen's

grasp down the right sideline.

**Clemson 38, Auburn 24
September 17, 2011 at Clemson**

The nation's longest winning streak ended thanks to a 386-yard, four-touchdown afternoon from Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd and 155 receiving yards from freshman-sensation Sammy Watkins, who was named ACC Receiver-of-the-Week and ACC Rookie-of-the-Week for his efforts. In all, the Tigers amassed 624 yards while outscoring Auburn 31-3 from the midway part of the second quarter on. It was the most yards gained by a Clemson team against an SEC team.

Trailing by 14 points on two different occasions, including 21-7 following Michael Dyer's second touchdown of the game in the second quarter, Boyd got Clemson rolling with a four-yard touchdown pass to DeAndre Hopkins, a six-yard score to tight end Dwayne Allen, who tight-roped the back of the endzone, and then 65 and 19-yard touchdown passes to Watkins in the third quarter.

Auburn had no answer for Boyd, as he completed 30-42 passes on his way to earning ACC Offensive Back-of-the-Week honors.

Once Boyd found his rhythm, Clemson did not miss a step, as it scored on six of seven possessions. The Tigers' 624 yards of total offense were third-most in history and just the eighth time a Clemson team topped the 600-yard mark in a contest.

Auburn had won 14 straight games over Clemson, including last year's dramatic 27-24 overtime victory at Auburn. However, there were no dramatics in front of the sellout crowd, as Clemson controlled the game in the second half.

Some thanks also goes to a defense that for the third straight week did not allow a touchdown in the second half. Auburn amassed just 150 yards and three points in the second half after totaling 285 yards and three touchdowns in the first half.

**Clemson and Auburn Ties
Historical Ties**

•The first three coaches in Clemson football history were Auburn graduates. Walter Riggs, Clemson's first head coach and later University President, was Clemson's head coach in 1896 and 1899. He was an 1893 Auburn graduate. William Williams, Clemson's head coach in 1897, was an 1896 Auburn graduate, while John Penton, Clemson's head coach in 1898, had graduated from Auburn in the spring of 1898.

•John Heisman was not an Auburn graduate, but he came to Clemson from Auburn. He coached at Auburn from 1895-1899 and came to Clemson to coach the 1900-03 era. Heisman was 12-4-2 at Auburn before coming to Clemson. He was 19-3-2 as head coach of the Tigers for those four years. He then left Clemson to become the head coach at Georgia Tech. His .833 winning percentage is the best in Clemson history.

Heisman coached for each school within the first two games of this series. He defeated Clemson for Auburn in 1899 by a 34-0 score, then defeated Auburn as Clemson's head coach by a 16-0 score in 1902.

•Both schools have a main administration building on campus that is virtually the same architecture. Clemson's Tillman Hall was modeled after Auburn's Langdon Hall. In fact, noted **Atlanta Constitution** columnist and humorist Lewis Grizzard used to refer to Clemson

as "Auburn with a Lake."

•Both Clemson and Auburn were among the top programs in college football in the 1980s. In fact, Clemson won 87 games in the 1980s and Auburn won 86. Clemson had the fifth best winning percentage in college football in that decade with an 87-25-4 record for a .767 mark. Auburn had the 10th best winning percentage with a 86-31-1 record, a .733 winning percentage.

•Bill Oliver was a defensive coordinator at both schools. He served on Clemson's staff under Danny Ford from 1986-89. He then served as Auburn's defensive coordinator against Clemson in the 1998 Chick-fil-A Bowl.

•Cliff Ellis was the head basketball coach at Clemson from 1984-94. He announced his retirement in January of 1994 during his final season at Clemson, then was hired as head coach at Auburn for the 1994-95 season. He led both programs to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. He is now the head coach at Coastal Carolina.

•Both schools had a Bowden serve as head coach of their program. Terry Bowden served as head coach at Auburn from 1993-98 and Tommy Bowden coached Clemson from 1999-08. Tommy also served as an assist coach at Auburn from 1991-96. Terry coached against Clemson for Auburn in the 1997 season Chick-fil-a Bowl and Tommy Bowden coached for Clemson against Auburn in the 2007 season Chick-fil-A Bowl. Both Bowdens left their respective programs the next year.

Chizik Coached at Clemson

Auburn Head Coach Gene Chizik was a graduate assistant coach on Danny Ford's Clemson staffs of 1988 and 1989. The Tigers finished both seasons with a 10-2 record, and the 1988 team won the ACC Championship. Both teams finished the season in the final top 12 ranking, as the 1988 team beat Oklahoma in the Citrus Bowl and finished 9th in the final AP poll, and the 1989 team beat West Virginia and finished 12th in the final AP poll.

Chizik worked with the linebackers as a graduate assistant both years. One of the linebackers he worked with was all-time Clemson great Levon Kirkland. One of the other graduate assistants on both of those staffs was current Clemson tight ends and special teams coach Danny Pearman.

Chizik left Clemson after the 1989 season and became defensive ends coach at Middle Tennessee where he helped that program to an 11-2 record in 1990. He earned his Masters from Clemson in 1991. Pearman went to Alabama for the 1990 season. One of the players on that Alabama team was Dabo Swinney.

Of course Chizik coached Auburn to the National Championship in 2010. He was the first former Clemson assistant (full time or graduate assistant) to serve as head coach of a national championship team since Red Saunders, who coached UCLA to the national championship in 1954. He had been an assistant at Clemson from 1928-30.

Fifth Straight Game Away from Death Valley

Clemson will open the 2012 season in Atlanta against Auburn and it will be Clemson's fifth straight game away from home. **This is the longest streak of games away from home since the 1964 season** when Clemson played five straight away games during the regular season. That year Clemson played at NC State on Sept. 26, at Georgia Tech on Oct. 3, at Georgia on Oct. 10, at Wake Forest on Oct. 17 and at TCU on Oct. 24.

What athletic director did that schedule? Actually, the AD was Frank Howard, who was also the head coach.

While Clemson is playing its fifth straight game away from home, only two of them have been on the opponent's home field. Clemson played at NC State and at South Carolina to close the 2011 regular season. Then won the ACC title over Virginia Tech in a neutral site game in Charlotte, then closed out the season in Miami in the Discover Orange Bowl against West Virginia.

Clemson's first home game will be September 8 against Ball State. The Tigers will have seven of their last 11 games at home, including each of the last three. It will be the first time Clemson has closed the season with three consecutive home games since 2006.

Dabo vs. Auburn

Clemson Head Coach Dabo Swinney is a 1993 graduate of the University of Alabama, so playing against Auburn is special to the Tigers mentor. He played in three games against Auburn as a student at Alabama, the games of 1990, 1991 and 1992. Alabama won all three of those games, including by a 17-0 score in 1992, the year Alabama won the National Championship.

As a graduate assistant coach and a full-time assistant at Alabama, the Crimson Tide had a 4-4 record with Swinney on the sidelines against the Auburn Tigers. That includes a 28-17 victory in 1999.

Swinney has coached against Auburn three times since he has been at Clemson, an overtime loss to Auburn in the Chick –Fil-A Bowl that ended the 2007 season as an assistant, an overtime loss at Auburn in 2010, and last year's 38-24 Clemson win that ended Auburn's 17-game winning streak as head coach.

So, overall, Swinney is 8-6 as a player and coach against Auburn. This does not count a 1989 loss to Auburn when Swinney was on the Alabama roster as a freshman walk-on, but he did not play in the game.

Swinney vs. Auburn (8-6)

Year	Role	Site	W	L	AL-AU
1990	Player	Birmingham	W		16-7
1991	Player	Birmingham	W		13-6
1992	Player	Birmingham	W		17-0
1993	Grad Ast	Auburn		L	14-22
1994	Grad Ast	Birmingham	W		21-14
1995	Grad Ast	Auburn		L	27-31
1996	Ast Coach	Birmingham	W		24-23
1997	Ast Coach	Auburn		L	17-18
1998	Ast Coach	Birmingham	W		31-17
1999	Ast Coach	Auburn	W		28-17
2000	Ast Coach	Tuscaloosa		L	0-9
2007	Ast Coach	Atlanta, G		L	#20-23
2010	Head Coach	Auburn		L	#24-27
2011	Head Coach	Clemson	W		38-24
		#Overtime			

Clemson Top Performances on Opening Day

Below are Clemson's top performances by individual category in the opening game of the season, regardless of site. Some of the records date back over 50 years.

Clemson Opening Day Individual Records:

- Total Offense:** 303 by Charlie Whitehurst vs. Wake Forest, 2004
- Rushing Yards:** 204 by Buck George vs. Presbyterian, 1952
- Passing Yards:** 288 by Charlie Whitehurst vs. Wake Forest, 2004
- Pass Attempts:** 41 vs. Charlie Whitehurst vs. Wake Forest, 2004
- Pass Completions:** 23 by Brandon Streeter vs. Marshall, 1999
- Completion Percentage:** .941 (16-17) by Woodrow Dantzler vs. The Citadel, 2000
- Passing Efficiency:** 247.1 by Woodrow Dantzler vs. The Citadel, 2000
- Receptions:** 11 by Rod Gardner vs. Marshall, 1999
- Reception Yards:** 152 (9 receptions) by Airese Currie vs. Wake Forest, 2004
- All Purpose Yards:** 246 by Buck George vs. Presbyterian vs. Presbyterian, 1952
- Field Goals:** 6 by Jad Dean vs. Texas A&M, 2005
- Tackles:** 18 by Jeff Davis vs. Rice, 1980
18 by Chad Carson vs. The Citadel, 2000

Clemson in Season Openers

Clemson has won 21 of its last 27 season openers. That includes an 8-4 record the last 12 years when Clemson has played its most challenging season-opening games.

Clemson has lost three of its last 10 season opening games, but all three were to top 25 teams, twice to Georgia (2002 and 2003) and in 2008 to Alabama in a game played in Atlanta. Clemson has played five openers against top 25 teams in the last 13 years after having played just five top 25 teams in opening games between 1936 (first year of the AP poll) and 1999.

Clemson plays another top 25 team in an opener this year as Auburn is ranked 25th by USA Today.

Clemson has had some exciting season openers in recent years. In 2004, against Wake Forest, Clemson won a thriller 37-30 in overtime in a game that was televised by ABC. Clemson won at home in 2005, a 25-24 win over 17th ranked Texas A&M on a 42-yard field goal by Jad Dean with two seconds left. Clemson also beat a 19th ranked Florida State team in the season opener of 2007.

The Auburn game will be Clemson's first opener away from home since the 2008 season when Alabama defeated the Tigers. Clemson has not won a season opener away from home since 1985 when the Tigers won at Virginia Tech 20-17 on a field goal by David Treadwell on the last play of the game.

The Tigers are 86-22-8 (.777), regardless of site, in their first game in the previous 116 seasons. Even though this is the 117th season of Clemson football, Clemson has had just 111 home openers in its history because five seasons Clemson did not play a game at home. In the 111 home openers, Clemson has an 86-17-8 record (.812) against 36 different

opponents.

Clemson's home opener is next week against Ball State.

Clemson vs. Ranked Opponents to Open Season (3-7)

Year	Opponent	Rank	W-L	Al-Opp	Site
1959	North Carolina	18-12	W	20-18	Away
1963	Oklahoma	NR-4	L	14-31	Away
1974	Texas A&M	NR-20	L	0-24	Away
1977	Maryland	NR-10	L	14-21	Home
1982	Georgia	11-7	L	7-13	Away
2002	Georgia	NR-8	L	28-31	Away
2003	Georgia	NR-11	L	0-30	Home
2005	Texas A&M	NR-17	W	25-24	Home
2007	Florida State	NR-19	W	24-18	Home
2008	Alabama	9-24	L	10-34	Neutral

Clemson in the Georgia Dome

Clemson has a 2-5 all-time record in the Georgia Dome. Six of the seven previous games have come in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Clemson is 0-2 in the facility against Auburn, Chick-fil-A Bowl losses at the end of the 1997 and 2007 seasons.

Clemson first appeared in the facility in 1993 and came away with a 14-13 win over Kentucky in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Kentucky's coach was Bill Curry, who is in his final year as head coach at Georgia State.

The other victory came at the end of the 2003 season against sixth-ranked Tennessee. That is the second highest ranked victory in a bowl game in Clemson history. One of the Tennessee coaches in that game was current Clemson defensive line coach Dan Brooks.

While Clemson has played just seven games in the facility in its history, the Tigers did play two games in a row there. Clemson ended its 2007 season against Auburn and began its 2008 season against Alabama in the facility.

The Georgia Dome is the only domed facility where Clemson has played a football game and a basketball game. Clemson is 1-2 in the Georgia Dome in basketball.

Clemson in the Georgia Dome (2-5)

Date	Opponent (rank)	W	L	CU-Opp
12-31-93	Kentucky	W		14-13
12-28-96	LSU (17)		L	7-10
1-2-98	Auburn (13)		L	17-21
12-30-99	Mississippi State (15)		L	7-17
1-2-04	Tennessee (6)	W		27-14
12-31-07	Auburn (22)		L	#20-23
8-30-08	Alabama (24)		L	10-34

overtime

Clemson Has just 12 Seniors

Clemson has one of the youngest teams in the nation with just 12 seniors on the roster, 11 of which came to Clemson as scholarship players. This is the fewest seniors on a Clemson football roster since 1999 when Tommy Bowden's first team had just 10, including just six on scholarship.

The only other year in the last 30 that Clemson has had 12 seniors or less was in 1985 when Danny Ford's team also had 12 seniors. The 1985 team finished 6-5 and the 1999 Clemson team finished 6-6.

You can make the claim that this is the youngest Clemson team since 1944. This 2012 team also has just 13 scholarship juniors. Clemson's 1944 team was completely made up of freshmen and sophomores as all upper classmen left campus for the armed services.

Clemson 14th in Preseason AP Poll by AP and USA Today

Clemson is ranked 14th in the preseason Associated Press College Football Poll and the USA Today poll.

This is the first time Clemson has been ranked in the top 15 in the preseason by both polls since 2008 when the Tigers were ninth in both preseason polls. It is just the second time since 1992 that Clemson has ranked in the top 15 of both polls to open the season.

Clemson's highest preseason rankings in history took place in 1988 when Clemson was fourth in both polls. Clemson was also fourth in the preseason poll by AP in 1984.

Clemson finished last season ranked 22nd by both AP and USA Today. Clemson has not finished in the final top 25 in consecutive seasons since the program had a six-year run of top 20 finishes from 1986-1991.

With Clemson's inclusion in the preseason AP poll the program is now on a streak of 14 straight polls with at least a top 25 ranking. It is the longest streak for the program since a run of 21 straight AP polls in the

top 25 from the preseason poll of 2000 through the September 9, 2001 poll.

In looking at some of the other preseason rankings by publications and television programs, Clemson's average preseason ranking is 14.56. Lindy's has Clemson 13th. In addition to AP and USA Today, Blue Ribbon, Phil Steele and Sports Illustrated have Clemson 14th. Athlon and Sporting News rank Clemson 15th. College Football Live on ESPN lists Clemson 18th.

Clemson's Preseason Poll History

Year	Preseason AP-Coach	Final Rec.	Final AP-Coach
1958	18-NP	*8-3	12-13
1958	18-NP	*9-2	11-11
1960	9-NP	6-4	NR-NR
1978	18-NP	*11-1	6-6
1982	11-9	*9-1-1	8-NR
1984	4-8	7-4	NR-NR
1987	9-NP	*10-2	12-10
1988	4-4	*10-2	9-8
1989	12-NP	10-2	12-11
1990	10-NP	10-2	12-11
1991	9-NP	*9-2-1	18-17
1992	13-NP	5-6	NR-NR
1993	23-NP	9-3	23-22
1994	25-21	5-6	NR-NR
1996	25-23	7-5	NR-NR
1997	20-21	7-5	NR-NR
2000	17-19	9-3	16-14
2001	19-18	7-5	NR-NR
2006	18-18	8-5	NR-NR
2008	9-9	7-6	NR-NF
2012	14-14	??	??

Tigers from Georgia

Clemson has 11 players on its roster from the state of Georgia. The list includes eight players who are on the two-deep, six of whom are defensive players. David Beasley (OG, Columbus, GA), Grady Jarrett (DT, Conyers, GA), Darius Robinson (CB, College Park, GA), and Corico Wright (LB, Milledgeville, GA) are all slated to start against Auburn. Vic Beasley (DE, Adairsville, GA) and Corey Crawford (DE, Columbus, GA) are co-starters at defensive end.

Clemson has a strong history of players from the state of Georgia who have contributed to the Clemson program over the years. Below are some prominent school records that are held by players from the Atlanta area.

Clemson players from Georgia (11)

Name	Pos	Cl	Hometown	High School
David Beasley	OG	*So.	Columbus	Carver
Vic Beasley	DE	*So.	Adairsville	Adairsville
Corey Crawford	DE	So.	Columbus,	Carver
Grady Jarrett	DT	So.	Conyers	Rockdale
Martin Jenkins	DB	Jr.	Roswell	Centennial
C.J. Jones	CB	Jr.	Lincolnton	Lincolnton Cty
Ammon Lakip	PK	Fr.	Johns Creek	Chattahoochee
Gary Peters	DB	So.	Conyers	Heritage
Darius Robinson	CB	Jr.	College Park	Westlake
Reid Webster	OL	So.	Woodstock	Etowah
Corico Wright	LB	Sr.	Milledgeville	Baldwin

Prominent Clemson Career Records Held by Atlanta Natives

- Career Passing Yards: 9,665 by Charlie Whitehurst, 2002-05
- Career Completion Percentage: .653 by Cullen Harper, 2004-08
- Career Punting Average: 43.48 by Chris Gardocki, 1988-90
- Career Total Offense: 9,763 by Charlie Whitehurst, 2002-05
- Season Sacks: 16 by Keith Adams, 1999
- Season Tackles for Loss: 35, by Keith Adams, 1999

Clemson Seeks Second Straight ACC Title

Clemson enters the 2012 season as the defending ACC Champion. It is the first time Clemson has been in that situation since 1992 when the Tigers were coming off a 9-1-1 season, including a 6-0-1 mark in the ACC.

Clemson has won 14 ACC titles, or co-titles over the years, more than any other school. Clemson has successful defending the ACC title six times (1959, 1966, 1967, 1982, 1987 and 1988). The last ACC team to defend the ACC championship was Virginia Tech in 2008. Florida State

defended the title in 2003 and that is the only other season in the last 10 that a team has defended the ACC football championship.

Eight Different Clemson Players on Watch Lists Boyd on Five Lists Entering 2012

Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd is on five Watch Lists for the 2012 season. The Clemson quarterback is on lists for the Davy O'Brien, Walter Camp, Johnny Unitas, Archie Manning and Maxwell Awards. Dalton Freeman is on lists for the Rimington Award, Outland Trophy and Lombardi Awards.

Clemson has eight different players who have been on 17 total lists in the preseason this year. Six of the eight players are offensive players. Last year Clemson established school records for total offense and points scored under first-team offensive coordinator Chad Morris.

Twelve different players are on preseason All-ACC teams. Sammy Watkins is listed as a wide receiver and kick returner. Five different offensive players are on some first-team All-ACC squads.

Clemson Players on Preseason Watch Lists for 2012

Player	Award	Honor
Andre Ellington	Doak Walker	Top Running Back
	Maxwell Award	Top Player
	Biletnikoff Award	Top Receiver
DeAndre Hopkins	Rimington Award	Top Center
	Outland Trophy	Top Lineman
Dalton Freeman	Lombardi Award	Top Lineman
	John Mackey	Top Tight End
Brandon Ford	Lou Groza	Top Place Kicker
Chandler Catanzaro	Hendricks Award	Top Defensive End
Malliciah Goodman	Davey O'Brien	Top Quarterback
	Walter Camp	Top Player
Tajh Boyd	Maxwell Award	Top Player
	Manning Award	Top Quarterback
	Unitas Award	Top Quarterback
	Maxwell Award	Top Player
	Walter Camp	Top Player
Sammy Watkins	Hornung Award	Top All-Purpose

Clemson Preseason All-ACC Chart

Player_Pos	Athlon	Lindy's	USA	Steele	BR
Andre Ellington, RB	1	1	1	1	1
Sammy Watkins, WR	1	1	1	1	1
Sammy Watkins, KR	2			1	1
Dalton Freeman, C	1	1	1	1	1
Tajh Boyd, QB	1	1	1	2	1
Chandler Catanzaro, PK	2	3		2	
DeAndre Hopkins, WR	2	1	1	1	
Rashard Hall, SAF	2	2		4	1
Malliciah Goodman, DE	2			1	
Stephone Anthony, LB				2	
Corico Wright, LB				3	
Brandon Ford, TE	3			3	
Brandon Thomas, OL				4	
USA—USA Today; Steele, Phil Steele, BR—Blue Ribbon					

Hall Outstanding in Preseason

Clemson graduate Rashard Hall has had an outstanding preseason. In three preseason scrimmages he has had five interceptions, including three in the second major scrimmage.

Hall hopes he can collect eight interceptions this year because it would set the school record, a career record held by former Clemson unanimous All-American and College Football Hall of Fame inductee Terry Kinard. Kinard's mark of 17 interceptions has stood since 1982.

Hall enters this year with 10 career interceptions for 169 return yards. He is second to NC State's David Amerson in both categories among active ACC players.

As far as Clemson history is concerned, Hall is tied for 15th in career interceptions, but sixth in interception return yards. He is also tied for ninth in school history in career takeaways with 13 (10 interceptions and three fumble recoveries).

Clemson has some ball hawks in the secondary. Three of the top 10 active ACC players in interception return yards are from Clemson. Hall is second with 169, Jonathan Meeks is fifth with 118 and Bashaud Breeland is eighth with 93.

Freeman Only Returning Rimington Award Finalist

Clemson center Dalton Freeman is the only returning finalist from last year on the 2012 Rimington Award Watch List. He was the first

Clemson center to be a finalist for the award since Kyle Young in 2001. Young was actually a finalist in 2000 as well.

Freeman and Notre Dame center Braxton Cave are the only graduates among the 51 centers on the award's preseason watch list.

The native of Pelion, SC is one of five centers from the ACC on the list. The others are Jay Finch of Georgia Tech, Andrew Miller of Virginia Tech, Brian Moore of Duke and Camden Wentz of NC State. All four of those ACC centers will play against Clemson this year.

Freeman will be in his fourth year as Clemson's starting center this year. He is on pace to become the first four-year starter at center for the Clemson program since Ralph Jenkins, 1943-46.

Freeman has played in 40 games and has 36 starts, all consecutively. He was the first-team All-ACC center last year when he played 1044 snaps, more than any player in Clemson history for one season. Freeman is also a three-time Academic All-ACC selection and has been a starter on two Atlantic Division Championship teams, including last year's ACC title team. He has been named to the ACC Academic honor roll four times.

Ellington Leading Returning Rusher in ACC

Clemson running back Andre Ellington is the leading active ACC player in terms of rushing yards (2,355), rushing touchdowns (25), and 100-yard rushing games (9). He is second in all-purpose running yards with 3095. Only Conner Vernon of Duke has more with 3,191.

Ellington has 785 more rushing yards than second place Perry Jones of Virginia. His 25 rushing touchdowns are seven more than Tevin Washington of Georgia Tech.

Ellington gained 1,178 yards on the ground last year, his career high and the most by a Clemson running back since CJ Spiller had 1,212 in 2009 when he finished sixth in the Heisman Trophy race. Ellington's total was eighth best in Clemson history. He did it on 223 carries for a 5.3 average.

For his career, Ellington has a 5.68 yards per carry average, second among active ACC players behind Orwin Smith of Georgia Tech, who has an ACC record 9.56 yards a carry for his career.

Andre Ellington Among ACC Players Entering 2012

- Rushing Yards, 2355 (First)
- 100-yard Rushing Games, 9 (First)
- Rushing Touchdowns, 25 (First)
- All-Purpose running, 3095 (Second)
- Yards/Carry, 5.68 (Second)
- TD Responsibility, 25 (ninth)
- Scoring, 162 (Fifth)

Three Clemson Receivers Among ACC Top 10

Three Clemson receivers are ranked among the top 10 active ACC players in reception yards entering the 2012 season. DeAndre Hopkins is second with 1615, Sammy Watkins is fourth with 1219 and Jaron Brown is 10th with 841. Hopkins is also second in total receptions with 124 and Watkins is sixth with 82. Watkins will not play at Auburn due to a suspension.

Active ACC Players in Career Reception Yardage

Rk	Player	School	Yards
1.	Conner Vernon	Duke	2675
2.	DeAndre Hopkins	Clemson	1615
3.	Erik Highsmith	North Carolina	1499
4.	Sammy Watkins	Clemson	1219
5.	Rodney Smith	Florida State	1016
6.	Bobby Swigert	Boston College	966
7.	Dyrell Roberts	Virginia Tech	965
8.	Michael Campanaro	Wake Forest	940
9.	Marcus Davis	Virginia Tech	874
10.	Jaron Brown	Clemson	841

Venables Leads the Defense

Clemson has just one new coach on its full-time staff. That new member is Brent Venables, Clemson's defensive coordinator and linebackers coach. Venables comes to Clemson from the University of Oklahoma where he spent the last 13 seasons.

Oklahoma went to a bowl game all 13 years Venables was at Oklahoma, including the BCS Championship game in 2008. He was on the Oklahoma National Championship staff in 2000, a team that finished 13-0 with a 13-2 victory over Florida State in the championship.

Overall, Venables has been a college coach for 16 years and all 16 his teams have played in a bowl game. They have a collective record of 170-40 for a .810 winning percentage. He has coached in nine bowl games that are now considered BCS level bowls.

At Oklahoma he coached five Big 12 Defensive Players of the Year and two Butkus Award winners.

Tigers Look for Another Top 25 Win

Clemson opens the 2012 season against Auburn, a team ranked 25th in the preseason USA Today poll. Clemson had good luck with ranked teams a year ago as Dabo Swinney's team gained four wins over top 25 teams. That was a school record for a year as Clemson defeated Auburn (19th in USA Today, 21st in AP), Florida State (14th in USA Today and 11th in AP) and Virginia Tech (10th in USA Today, 11th in AP) in consecutive weeks.

It marked the first time an ACC team had defeated three consecutive AP top 25 teams in three consecutive weeks. Clemson also beat a third ranked (USA Today) Virginia Tech team in the ACC Championship game, 38-10.

Clemson also defeated a 23rd ranked NC State team near the end of the 2010 season, so Clemson has five wins over top 25 teams over its last 19 games. Prior to the recent 19-game streak, you had to go back 63 games to find Clemson's previous five wins over top 25 teams.

Tajh Boyd Among ACC Career Leaders

Tajh Boyd has been the starting quarterback for just one year, but he ranks in the top four among active ACC quarterbacks in five categories, including number one in two. He has 37 career touchdown passes, and 43 touchdowns in terms of touchdown responsibility (rushing and passing) best among active ACC quarterbacks.

He is second in 300-yard passing games with four, and is fourth in career total offense with 4408. He is also fourth in career passing yards with 4157.

In terms of Clemson history, Boyd is already eighth in career passing yards, seventh in career completions (331), fourth in career completion percentage (.589) and fourth in career touchdown passes. He needs just 13 touchdown passes this year to become Clemson's career leader in that category. He is also third in interception avoidance, throwing an interception just once every 2.67 passes.

Clemson Has Returning 3000-yard Passer, 1000-yard Receiver, 1000-yard Rusher

Clemson is one of three schools nationally with a returning 3000-yard passer, 1000-yard receiver and 1000-yard rusher from last year.

Tajh Boyd threw for a school record 3,828 yards last year, Sammy Watkins caught 82 passes for 1,219 yards and Andre Ellington had 1,178 yards rushing. Watkins will not play against Auburn in the opener, but the Tigers do have returning junior receiver DeAndre Hopkins, who had 972 receiving yards last year.

Southern California and Fresno State are the other two schools with a returning 3000 yard passer, 1000-yard receiver and 1000 yard rusher.

You Are Right if You Say Corico Wright

Clemson starting linebacker Corico Wright was known as Corico Hawkins for his first four years with the Tigers. This summer he legally changed his name for family reasons to Corico Wright. Wright has been one of Clemson's top tacklers the last few years. He ranks seventh among active ACC players in total tackles with 170, including 80 last year. He is also tied for sixth in tackles for loss with 17.

Daniel Rodriguez Joins Clemson Roster Earned Purple Heart and the Bronze Medal of Valor

Daniel Rodriguez, a 24-year old United States Army veteran, has joined the Clemson football team. The 5-8 receiver, will began practice with the Tigers on August 3.

Rodriguez served for one and a half years in Iraq and a year in Afghanistan. Over his military career (2006-10) he earned a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal with Valor.

Rodriguez, who will wear number-83 for the Tigers, has not played football since he was in high school at Brooke Point High in Stafford, VA. He lettered three years (2003-05) in high school as a slot receiver, running back, cornerback, holder, quarterback and kick returner. He will work with the receivers this year at Clemson and have three years of eligibility.

It has been Rodriguez's dream to return to the football field at the college level. Clemson Head Coach Dabo Swinney offered him a spot on the team as a walk-on after seeing a video about Rodriguez on the internet.

Rodriguez, who will attend Clemson on the G.I. Bill, was featured on the front page of **USA Today**, the Washington Post and has been profiled on CNN and Dan Rather Reports.

Tigers Without Watkins

Clemson will be without returning first-team AP All-American Sammy Watkins for its season opener against Auburn and its second game against Ball State on September 8. The sophomore from Fort Myers, FL is serving a two game suspension after an arrest this past summer.

Last year, Watkins had 82 receptions for 1,219 yards and 12 receiving touchdowns. His reception total was second best in school history, but his touchdown reception total and reception yardage figures were the best ever. He also had 2288 all-purpose yards, second only to C.J. Spiller's 2680 in 2009.

Watkins was named first-team All-American by Associated Press last year, just the fourth true freshman non-kicker to make first team by the AP. The others were Herschel Walker of Georgia in 1980, Marshall Faulk of San Diego State in 1991 and Adrian Peterson of Oklahoma in 2004.

This will be Clemson's second game without Watkins in the lineup. He suffered a shoulder injury against Wake Forest last year that forced him to miss the NC State game. Clemson lost that game, 37-13. Last year Watkins had 10 receptions (season high) for 155 yards and two scores against Auburn. He also rushed for 44 yards in seven carries in a 38-24 Clemson win.

Watkins was named the preseason ACC Player of the Year at the ACC Football Kickoff this past July in Greensboro.

Last Football Season for Clemson Athletic Director

Clemson Athletic Director Dr. Terry Don Phillips announced his retirement in August. He will serve as Clemson's athletic director until a new one is selected. He became Clemson's AD in July of 2002 and this is his 11th football season leading the school's program.

In that time the program has seen a major improvement in terms of facilities as he has overseen the construction of the West Endzone at Memorial Stadium and many other facilities projects. Clemson is among the best in the nation in terms of APR, grade point average and graduation rate.

On the field Clemson won its first ACC title in 20 years last year. The program has had five top 25 seasons in his 10 previous years as athletic director and been bowl eligible every year.

Three Tigers from Alabama

Clemson has three players who list a town in Alabama as their hometown. None of the players are starters, but all three could play against Auburn in the opener. In fact, D.J. Howard, of Lincoln, AL, was Clemson's leading rusher in the win over Auburn last year with nine rushes for 86 yards. It was his high total in a game during his freshman year.

The other Tigers from Alabama are red-shirt junior Darrell Smith, who has two letters as a tight end, and red-shirt offensive lineman Spencer Region.

Of course, Clemson Head Coach Dabo Swinney is a native of Pelham, AL

Tigers From Alabama

Player	Pos	Yr	Hometown	High
D.J. Howard	RB	*So	Lincoln, AL	Lincoln
Spencer Region	OL	*Fr.	Cullman, AL	Cullman
Darrell Smith	TE	*Jr.	Gadsden, AL	Gadsden City

Clemson Football Program Lauded for APR Score Second Straight Year

The Clemson football and golf programs were both honored in May when the NCAA released its Academic Performance Public Recognition Awards. Both Clemson programs rank among the top 10 percent of all programs nationally in terms of APR scores (Academic Progress Rate).

It is the second time both programs have been ranked among the top 10 percent in the nation. It is the second consecutive year for Dabo Swinney's football team, while Larry Penley's golf team was also honored in 2004-05.

Fourteen football programs were honored by the NCAA. The list included ACC schools Clemson, Duke and Miami (FL). The ACC was the only conference with three schools on the football list. The other institutions honored for football APR scores were Boise State, Middle Tennessee, Northern Illinois, Northwestern, Rice, Rutgers, Stanford, Ohio State, Air Force, Navy and Vanderbilt.

Clemson and Northern Illinois were the only schools in the nation to win their conference championship and rank in the top 10 percent in the nation in terms of APR scores this year. Clemson, Stanford and Boise State were the only schools to rank in the final AP top 25 and in the top 10 percent in terms of APR scores.

The scores include APR scores for he 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years.

Clemson Football Program Has Nation's Seventh Best APR

16 of 19 Clemson Programs score over 970

All 19 of Clemson's programs scored above the 925 APR threshold and 16 were above 970 according to data released by the NCAA on Wednesday.

The Clemson golf team had the highest among the 19 programs with a perfect 1000 score, the sixth time in the last eight years the program has had a perfect score under Head Coach Larry Penley.

The Clemson football team posted a 983 score, the seventh best score in the nation among FBS schools. The score was the second best in the nation among schools who finished the 2011 season in the final AP top 25. Only Boise State was better among the ranked schools with a 989 mark.

The NCAA also released data that was coach specific for the four-year period. Clemson Head Coach Dabo Swinney had a 991 score, fifth best in the nation among active coaches, and far above the national average of 948. His score was also best in the ACC.

Clemson's women's soccer program (992), volleyball (989), men's tennis (988), women's cross country (985) and baseball teams (980) also scored at 980 or better.

The 2012 report released today features a four-year compilation of APR data from the 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years. The APR uses a series of formulas related to student-athlete retention and eligibility to measure the academic performances of all participants who receive grants-in-aid on every team at every NCAA Division I college and university.

Football National Leaders in APR Scores among FBS Schools

1.	Northwestern	Big 10	995
2.	Duke	ACC	989
	Boise State	WAC	989
4.	Ohio State	Big 10	988
5.	Northern Illinois	MAC	987
6.	Rice	Conference USA	986
7.	Clemson	ACC	983
	Middle Tennessee St.	Sun Belt	983
9.	Rutgers	Big East	982
10.	Air Force	Mountain West	980

Clemson Memorial Stadium Ranked Best in the Nation by Bleacher Report

Site Ranks All 124 Division I Stadiums

Clemson Memorial Stadium has been ranked as the best football stadium in the nation by Bleacher Report.com, an internet site that covers college football and is known for its rankings in various areas of the game.

Below is how the website characterized the stadium in its review of all 124 Division I stadiums:

"Known nationwide as "Death Valley", this venue is the best place in the country to enjoy a college football game. It seats 80,301 and was built in 1942. The stadium will be filled with orange as the crowd loves to support their Tigers.

There are not many fans in the country that are more passionate about their team than this group. When Clemson is playing well and the game is going well, the noise in hear is as loud as it gets in college football."

Memorial Stadium was a great home to the Tigers in 2011 as Clemson and Head Coach Dabo Swinney posted a perfect 7-0 record at home and out-scored their opposition 277-180. Clemson's home victims in 2011 included defending National Champion Auburn and 11th ranked Florida State, victories that helped the Tigers gain momentum on the way the ACC Championship in December.

Tyler Shatley Named Strength All-American

Clemson Lineman Has Made Change to Offensive Line

Clemson lineman Tyler Shatley has been named a National Strength & Conditioning All-American by the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Shatley was a reserve defensive tackle last year, but has moved to offensive guard.

He played in 13 games, two as a starter in 2011, helping the Tigers to the ACC Championship and four wins over top 25 teams. He had 29 tackles and played 300 defensive snaps. For his career he has played 25 games.

Shatley, a native of Icard, NC, was the strongest player on the Clemson team last year in terms of total weight lifted in all areas combined. He tied for first in the bench press with a 450-pound figure. He was also second in the power clean at 300 pounds.

Tyler has proven to be one of Clemson's most dedicated athletes," said Clemson Strength & Conditioning Coach Joey Batson. "His hard work, discipline and determination have earned him regular playing

time. Tyler has set the bar for other athletes to reach and he has displayed a passion for strength training that is spreading among his teammates."

Swinney Begins Fourth Full Season

Clemson Head Coach Dabo Swinney Begins his fourth full season as Clemson head Coach. He first came to Clemson as an assistant in 2003 and served as wide receivers coach until the seventh game of the 2008 season when he was named interim head coach. He coached the rest of that regular season, (4-2 record) then the interim tag was removed by Athletic Director Terry Don Phillips on December 1, 2008. He has a 29-19 overall record. 19-9 against the ACC.

Swinney has achieved quite a bit in just three full seasons:

- Coach Clemson to its first ACC title in 20 years in 2011 when the Tigers defeated Virginia Tech 38-10 in the ACC Championship game.
- Has won two Atlantic Division titles in three years.
- Bobby Dodd National Coach of the Year in 2011
- Bear Bryant Award Finalist in 2011
- Eddie Robinson Award Finalist in 2011
- Liberty Mutual Award Coach of the Year Finalist in 2009 and 2011
- Coached a National Position Award Winner each of the last two years
- Has two top 25 seasons in his three full years as head coach.
- Has a 20-4 career record at home
- Led Clemson to first Orange Bowl Berth in 20 years in 2011
- Coached Clemson to #5 BCS ranking after 8-0 start in 2011.

Swinney Honored by South Carolina Legislature

Clemson Head Football Coach Dabo Swinney was honored by the South Carolina House of Representatives on May 8. The Tigers Head Coach was recognized for leading the Tigers to the 2011 ACC Championship and his receiving of the Bobby Dodd National Coach of the Year Award. B.R. Skelton, representative from the city of Clemson, made the presentation.

Swinney won the Bobby Dodd Award as the National Coach of the Year for 2011, the first Clemson football coach to be named a national coach of the year since Danny Ford in 1981. Swinney led Clemson to its first ACC Championship in 20 years with a 38-10 victory over third ranked Virginia Tech in the league title game in Charlotte in early December. The win sent Clemson to the Discover Orange Bowl, the school's first BCS Bowl appearance and first Orange Bowl appearance in 30 years.

Over the course of the season, Clemson won four games over top 20 teams, a record for one season, including three victories over top 11 teams, tied for the most in school history. Clemson finished with a 10-4 record and the 10 wins were the most for the program since 1990.

In three years he has taken Clemson to two Atlantic Division titles, the first two for the program since the ACC went to a division format in 2005. The Tigers have also finished in the top 25 twice without having been ranked in the preseason.

Team Accomplishments in 2011

- Atlantic Coast Conference Champions for the first time in 20 years
- Earned first appearance in BCS level bowl (Discover Orange Bowl) for first time in 30 years.
- Atlantic Division Champions of the ACC for second time in three years.
- Won 10 games, most for the program in 21 years.
- Ranked 22nd in final AP and USA Today polls.
- One of just five FBS schools to improve from a losing season in 2010 to a 10-win season in 2011. One of just three schools from BCS conferences to do it.
- Gained seven wins over ACC teams for the first time in 28 years.
- Defeated four top 25 teams, tied for third in the nation, and most in Clemson history for one season. Just third ACC school to have four top 25 wins in same year since 2000.
- Defeated third ranked (USA Today) Virginia Tech to win ACC Championship, tied for highest ranked team Clemson has beaten in its history. Won the game 38-10.
- Had two first-team AP All-Americans for first time in school history (Dwayne Allen and Sammy Watkins). Had three first or second team All-Americans altogether.
- Three different players were finalists for national position awards, five were semifinalists.
- Became first ACC school to defeat AP ranked teams in three consecutive games (Auburn (19), Florida State (11) and Virginia Tech (10).
- Posted perfect 7-0 record at home, first 7-0 home mark in school history.
- Achieved number-five BCS ranking on October 23, highest ranking in that poll in Clemson history.

•Finished 15th in BCS Ranking on December 4, tied for best final BCS ranking in school history. Clemson was ranked in BCS standing eight straight weeks to finish regular season.

•Overcame a deficit of 14 points or more to win three games, most in one season in school history. Clemson had done it just nine times in 115 years previously. Overcame 18-point deficit at Maryland to tie for second greatest comeback in Clemson history.

•Won first eight games of the season, just the fourth team in Clemson history to do that, the first in 11 years.

•Clemson was named National Team of the Week by the Football Writers Association for its 35-30 win over 11th ranked Florida State in the fourth game of the season. Second time Clemson was named National Team of the Week (FSU 2003).

•In defeating Auburn for the first time since 1951, the Tigers ended nation's longest winning streak, as Auburn had won 17 straight games. It was the longest winning streak ended by Clemson in school history.

•Defeated a top 10 Virginia Tech team twice in 2011 by a combined 48 points.

•Defeated 10th ranked Virginia Tech 23-3 on October 1 and the 20-point margin was the largest in Clemson history in a road win over a top 25 team.

•Became bowl eligible on October 7, the earliest bowl eligibility on the calendar in Clemson history.

•Set school record for consecutive quarters scoring with 22 in a row between September 17 and October 22.

•Had 6,171 yards of total offense, third most in ACC history. Had 33 touchdown passes as a team, fourth most in ACC history. Had 3,952 passing yards, fourth most in ACC history. Scored 470 points, seventh most in ACC history.

•Set Clemson season records for passing yards, total offense and points scored.

•Achieved all this with a roster that played 29 freshmen (true or red-shirt), tied for the most in the nation with Indiana. Twenty-six Clemson freshmen lettered, most in a season in school history.

Clemson among Most Improved Offenses in Nation in 2011

Clemson made considerable improvement on the offensive side of the football in 2011. The Tigers scoring was up 9.57 points per game in 2011 over 2010, passing offense was up 86.69 yards per game and total offense was up 106.17 yards per game.

Clemson's improvement in scoring was 10th best in the nation, its improvement in passing offense was tied for sixth best nationwide and its improvement in total offense was seventh best in the nation. Clemson, Houston and West Virginia were the only three schools in the nation to rank in the top 10 in the nation from an improvement standpoint in scoring, passing offense and total offense.

**Most Improved Offensive Teams in College Football in 2011
Points Per Game**

Rk	School	2010	2011	Improve
1.	Toledo	27.92	42.23	+14.31
2.	Baylor	31.15	45.31	+14.16
3.	West Virginia	25.15	37.62	+12.47
4.	Houston	37.67	49.29	+11.62
	Utah State	22.00	33.62	+11.62
6.	Washington	21.85	33.38	+11.53
7.	Washington St.	19.58	29.83	+10.25
8.	Louisiana-Lafayette	22.33	32.31	+9.98
9.	Vanderbilt	16.92	26.69	+9.77
10.	Clemson	24.00	33.57	+9.97

Passing Offense

Rk	School	2010	2011	Improve
1.	West Virginia	213.00	346.85	+133.85
2.	Houston	327.25	450.07	+122.82
3.	Wake Forest	143.83	253.15	+109.32
4.	New Mexico State	167.42	273.08	+105.42
5.	Ball State	153.58	241.00	+87.92
6.	Clemson	195.60	282.29	+86.69
	Ohio	162.31	249.00	+86.69
8.	Washington State	239.17	322.25	+83.08
9.	Oregon State	206.92	322.25	+79.83
10.	California	175.08	246.62	+71.54

Total Offense

Rk	School	2010	2011	Improve
1.	South Florida	309.38	432.75	+123.37
2.	Ohio U.	326.08	449.29	+123.21
3.	Houston	480.50	599.07	+118.57
4.	Toledo	365.38	481.31	+115.93
5.	Baylor	475.31	587.08	+111.77
6.	Utah State	347.33	457.31	+109.88
7.	Clemson	334.62	440.79	+106.17
8.	Wyoming	285.50	388.46	+102.96
9.	New Mexico State	296.50	398.08	+101.58
10.	West Virginia	372.69	469.54	+96.85

**Thirty-One Former Tigers in NFL Training Camps
Clemson Represented on 22 NFL Teams**

According to rosters on the NFL website (as of August 21), 31 former Clemson football players are currently in training camps with NFL teams. The list includes 11 defensive linemen. At least one former Tiger is represented on the rosters of 22 of the 32 teams. Nine different teams have two former Tigers.

As stated above, there are more defensive linemen on the list than any other position with 11. There are six defensive backs, four offensive linemen, three linebackers, two tight ends, two wide receivers, two running backs, and one quarterback. Twenty of the 31 players are defensive players, 11 are offensive players.

The veteran of the group is Arizona Cardinals defensive tackle Nick Eason, who is in his 10th year in the NFL. Five of the players are rookies and were starters on Clemson's 2011 ACC Championship team. Those players are Dwayne Allen, Andre Branch, Kourtnei Brown, Antoine McClain and Rennie Moore. Seventeen members of Clemson's 2009 team that won the Atlantic Division of the ACC, are on NFL rosters at the moment.

For the first time since 1996, Brian Dawkins is not on this list. Dawkins retired in the off season after 17 years in the NFL. He made the pro bowl in his final year.

Former Clemson Players in NFL Training Camps (31)

Name	Pos	Team	NFL Yrs	CU Yr
Dwayne Allen	TE	Indianapolis Colts	R	2008-11
Thomas Austin	OG	Houston Texans	3 rd	2006-09
DaQuan Bowers	DE	Tampa Bay Bucs	2 nd	2008-10
Andre Branch	DE	Jacksonville Jaguars	R	2008-11
Kourtnei Brown	LB	San Francisco 49ers	R	2008-11
Crezdon Butler	CB	Arizona Cardinals	3 rd	2006-09
Chris Clemons	S	Miami Dolphins	4 th	2005-08
Kavell Conner	LB	Indianapolis Colts	3 rd	2006-09
Jamie Cumbie	DT	Oakland Raiders	2 nd	2006-08
Nick Eason	DT	Arizona Cardinals	10 th	1999-02
Jacoby Ford	WR	Oakland Raiders	3 rd	2006-09
Maurice Fountain	DE	Philadelphia Eagles	R	2001-04
Marcus Gilchrist	SS	San Diego Chargers	2 nd	2007-10
Tyler Grisham	WR	Denver Broncos	4 th	2005-08
Chris Hairston	OT	Buffalo Bills	2 nd	2007-10
Jamie Harper	RB	Tennessee Titans	2 nd	2008-10
Leroy Hill	LB	Seattle Seahawks	8 th	2001-04
Jarvis Jenkins	DE	Washington Redskins	2 nd	2007-10
Byron Maxwell	CB	Seattle Seahawks	2 nd	2007-10
Antoine McClain	OG	Baltimore Ravens	R	2008-11
Phillip Merling	DE	Green Bay Packers	5 th	2005-07
Justin Miller	DB	Detroit Lions	5 th	2002-04
Rennie Moore	DE	Houston Texans	R	2008-11
Michael Palmer	TE	Atlanta Falcons	3 rd	2006-09
Barry Richardson	OT	St. Louis Rams	5 th	2004-07
Ricky Sapp	DE	New York Jets	3 rd	2006-09
Dorell Scott	DT	St. Louis Rams	4 th	2005-08
Coty Sensabaugh	CB	Tennessee Titans	R	2008-11
C.J. Spiller	RB	Buffalo Bills	3 rd	2006-09
Brandon Thompson	DT	Cincinnati Bengals	R	2008-11
Charlie Whitehurst	QB	San Diego Chargers	7 th	2002-05