

2011 CLEMSON TIGER FOOTBALL



(8 AP, 8 USA, 7 BCS) Clemson vs North Carolina

Game 8 : Clemson vs North Carolina

October 22, 2011

Kickoff: 12:01 PM

Clemson Memorial Stadium (81,500)
Clemson, SC

Television: ESPN

Dave Pasch, Urban Meyer, Chris Spielman
Sideline: Quint Kessinich

Clemson Radio Network

Announcers: Pete Yanity, Will Merritt, Patrick Sapp

Series History:

Clemson leads 34-19-1

At Clemson: Clemson leads 17-7

at Chapel Hill: Clemson leads 15-11-1

At Neutral: Clemson leads 2-1

First Meeting: UNC 28-0 in 1897 in Chapel Hill

Last Meeting: UNC 21-16 in 2010

Last Clemson Win: 52-7 in 2006

Streak: Clemson won 5 of last 7

Clemson Tigers

Record, 20117-0, 4-0 ACC
LocationClemson, SC
ColorsBurnt Orange and Northwest Purple
Enrollment19,453
Athletic DirectorDr. Terry Don Phillips
Head Coach.....**Dabo Swinney, Alabama '93**
Clemson Record/3rd full year).....26-15 (.634)
Home Record18-4 (.818)
Away Record7-8
Neutral Record1-3
ACC Regular Season Record.....17-7 (.708)
Record against North Carolina0-1
Offensive Coordinator.....Chad Morris
Defensive Coordinator.....Kevin Steele

North Carolina Tar Heels

Record, 20115-2, 1-2 ACC
LocationChapel Hill, NC
ColorsBlue and White
Enrollment37,000
Head Coach.....**Everett Withers**
School Record/ 1st season.....5-2
Overall (1st Season).....5-2
Record vs Clemson0-0
Offensive Coordinator.....John Shoop
Defensive Coordinator.....Art Kaufmann
Football SID.....Kevin Best
Phone(919) 962-8916
E-mailkbest@unca.unc.edu
Website:.....www.tarheelblue.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 Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech
11:00 AM Jimbo Fisher, Florida State
11:10 AM Paul Johnson, Georgia Tech
11:20 AM Randy Edsall, Maryland
11:30 AM Jim Grobe, Wake Forest
11:40 AM Everitt Withers, North Carolina
11:50 AM Tom O'Brien, NC State
Noon: Mike London, Virginia
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 Kevin Steele 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

***Joe Gore**--Freshman defensive end out with a knee injury.
***Spencer Benton (K)**--Suffered shoulder injury against Virginia Tech. Out for 6 weeks

CLEMSON 2011 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	/TV	Score/Time
Sept. 3	TROY		43-19
Sept. 10	WOFFORD		35-27
Sept. 17	AUBURN	ABC	38-24
Sept. 24	FLORIDA STATE	ESPN	35-30
Oct. 1	at Virginia Tech	ESPN2	23-3
Oct. 8	BOSTON COLLEGE	RSN	36-14
Oct. 15	at Maryland	ESPNU	56-45
Oct. 22	NORTH CAROLINA	ESPN	Noon
Oct.. 29	at Georgia Tech	ABC/ESPN	8:00 PM
Nov. 12	WAKE FOREST		
Nov. 19	at NC State		
Nov. 26	at 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

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2010 Final STANDINGS

Atlantic Division

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

Coastal Division

Team	ACC	Home	Away	Over
Georgia Tech	3-1	4-0	2-1	6-1
Virginia Tech	2-1	3-1	3-0	6-1
Duke	1-1	1-3	2-0	3-3
Virginia	1-1	3-1	1-1	4-2
North Carolina	1-2	4-1	1-1	5-2
Miami (FL)	1-2	2-1	1-2	3-3

THIS WEEK'S ACC GAMES

Saturday, October 22

Boston College at Virginia Tech	RSN	3:00 PM
North Carolina at Clemson	ESPN	Noon
Wake Forest at Duke	ACC	12:30
Maryland at Florida State	ABC	3:30 PM
Georgia Tech at Miami (FL)	ESPN	3:30 PM
NC State at Virginia	ESPNU	3:30 PM

NEXT WEEK'S ACC GAMES

Thursday, October 27

Virginia at Miami (FL)	ESPN	7:30 pM
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Saturday, October 29

Boston College at Maryland		
Clemson at Georgia Tech	TBA	8:00 PM
Virginia Tech at Duke		
NC State at Florida State		
Wake Forest at North Carolina		

Clemson Pronunciations

Dabo Swinney	DA boh SWEE knee
Jaron Brown	juh-Rahn
Quandon Christian	KWAHN-duhn
Mansa Joseph	MAN-suh
Darrell Smith	Dayr-uhl
Tajh Boyd	as in Taj Mahal
Philip Fajgenbaum	FAY-gehn-bomb
Kalen Davis	KAY-len

Dabo Swinney TV Show

Sunday

WHLI	Hilton Head, SC	10:00 AM
WFXB	Myrtle Beach, SC	11:00 AM
WCIV	Charleston, SC	11:30 AM
WOLO	Columbia, SC	Noon
WBK	Augusta, GA	12:30 PM
WMYA	Greenville, SC	1:30 PM

CSS	Regional Sports	Tue, 5:30 PM
Fox	Florida	Wed, 4:00 PM

Clemson Ranked Seventh in BCS

Clemson is ranked seventh in the Bowl Championship Series standings announced on October 16. The BCS Standings are used to determine the teams who play in the BCS Bowls, including the BCS National Championship game.

The BCS rankings are composed of one-third from the USA Today Coaches Poll, a third from the Harris Poll and a third from the six computer polls.

LSU is ranked first, followed by Alabama, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Boise State, Wisconsin, Clemson, Stanford, Arkansas and Oregon.

This is the first time Clemson has been ranked in the BCS standings since November 22, 2009 when Clemson was 18th. The number-seven ranking is tied for the best for the program in the BCS era. Clemson was seventh in the October 23, 2000 BCS standing, the first time Clemson was ranked by the BCS. That is also the only previous time Clemson was ranked in the top 10 in the BCS.

This is the 18th time Clemson has been ranked in the BCS. Clemson was ranked in the last five rankings of 2000 and held a number-15 position in the final BCS standing that year. The Tigers were ranked in the BCS four times in 2006 between October 15 and November 19.

Clemson was ranked in a school record six BCS standings in 2007, including a number 15 in the final standing of 2007. That was the last time Clemson was ranked in the final BCS Standing. Clemson was also ranked twice in 2009, #23 on November 15 and #18 on November 22.

Clemson is ranked eighth by the Harris poll, eighth by the USA Today Coaches poll and fifth best in the combined computer rankings used by the BCS. As far as the range of computer rankings, Clemson is third by Jeff Sagarin, third by Kenneth Massey, fourth by Peter Wolfe, fifth by Anderson & Hester, sixth by Richard Billingsley and sixth by Colley Matrix.

Clemson's BCS Ranking History

Date	Rank
10-23-2000	7
10-30-2000	13
11-11-2000	13
11-27-2000	15
12-3-2000	15
10-15-2006	12
10-22-2006	12
10-29-2006	19
11-19-2006	24
10-28-2007	25
11-4-2007	21
11-11-2007	15
11-18-2007	22
11-25-2007	16
12-2-2007	15
11-15-2009	23
11-22-2009	18
10-16-2011	7

Clemson vs. North Carolina Series

Clemson holds a 34-19-1 lead in the series with North Carolina that dates to 1897, the second year of Clemson football. The 1897 game was just the sixth game in Clemson football history and the Tar Heels won that game 28-0. It was the first game for the Tigers against a team that is now in the ACC

Clemson has won five of the last seven meetings dating to the 1999 season, Tommy Bowden's first year. This will be the

second game for the Tigers against the Tar Heels since Dabo Swinney became head coach. Last year North Carolina won 21-16 in Chapel Hill, Clemson's only appearance in Chapel Hill between 2003 and 2014.

Clemson has scored at least 31 points in each of the five wins against North Carolina, since 1999, but just 19 points combined in the two losses. Clemson scored 31 points in a 31-20 win at Death Valley in 1999 against a Tar Heel team coached by Carl Torbush. The Tigers won the 2000 game 38-24 behind four touchdown passes by backup quarterback Willie Simmons, who was on for an injured Woody Dantzler. It is the only game in Clemson history that a non-starter has thrown four touchdown passes.

Clemson was ranked 13th in the nation entering the 2001 meeting with the Tar Heels and Woody Dantzler was coming off the best back-to-back performances in Clemson history by a Tiger signal caller. He had 418 yards total offense in an overtime win against Georgia Tech and 517 in a win at NC State. Over 84,000 Clemson fans attended that Homecoming game in 2001, but Julius Peppers and the North Carolina defense had a plan to stop Dantzler and held him to a season low 127 total yards rushing and passing in a 38-3 North Carolina win. That Tar Heel team went on to defeat Auburn in the Peach Bowl.

Freshman Charlie Whitehurst threw four touchdown passes in just his second start in a 42-12 Clemson win at North Carolina in 2002. Tye Hill had the only 100-yard rushing day of his career in that victory. The next year Hill moved to defense and became a first round draft choice.

The Tigers won the 2003 meeting at Clemson by a 36-28 score, then Clemson won in 2006 at Clemson, 52-7. Clemson celebrated the 25-year anniversary of its National Championship at that game and the Tigers looked like champions that day, gaining 504 yards of total offense and 30 first downs. Now five years later Clemson will again celebrate its national championship, this time with the 30-year anniversary.

Clemson has won 18 of the last 25 meetings in the series. The Tigers have a 17-7 lead in games played at Clemson and Death Valley, and a 15-11-1 advantage in games in Chapel Hill, including a 14-10-1 lead in games at Keenan Stadium.

The landmark game of the series took place at North Carolina in 1981. The Tigers won that contest 10-8 behind an outstanding defense led by Jeff Davis and Jeff Bryant. It was the first meeting of top 10 ACC teams in the history of the conference, as Clemson was undefeated and ranked second in the nation entering the contest, while the Tar Heels were 7-1 and ranked eighth. Jeff Bryant recovered a North Carolina lateral with a minute left to clinch the victory for the Tigers, a key win in Clemson's National Championship season.

Clemson's number-eight AP ranking entering today's game is the highest for the program entering a game with North Carolina since 2000 when Clemson was ranked fifth.

Last Year

North Carolina 21, Clemson 16
October 9, 2010 at Chapel Hill, NC

North Carolina used its four solid offensive drives and scored three touchdowns in its 21-16 win over Clemson at Keenan Stadium on October 9, 2010. It was the first meeting between the two schools in Chapel Hill since 2002.

The Tar Heels drove 48 yards in 12 plays on their first drive of the game to take an early lead. Johnny White's four-yard touchdown

NATIONAL RANKINGS

**Associated Press Top 25
(October 16, 2011)**

Rk	School (First Place)	W-L	Pts	LW
1.	LSU (41)	7-0	1452	1
2.	Alabama (11)	7-0	1411	2
3.	Oklahoma (6)	6-0	1372	3
4.	Wisconsin	6-0	1252	4
5.	Boise State (1)	6-0	1218	5
6.	Oklahoma State	6-0	1186	6
7.	Stanford	6-0	1164	7
8.	Clemson	7-0	1064	8
9.	Oregon	5-1	1020	9
10.	Arkansas	5-1	946	10
11.	West Virginia	5-1	778	13
12.	Kansas State	6-0	762	17
13.	Nebraska	5-1	748	14
14.	South Carolina	6-1	690	15
15.	Michigan State	5-1	610	23
16.	Virginia Tech	6-1	597	19
17.	Texas A&M	4-2	467	21
18.	Michigan	6-1	442	11
19.	Auburn	5-2	374	24
20.	Georgia Tech	6-1	281	12
21.	Houston	6-0	238	25
22.	Washington	5-1	221	NR
23.	Illinois	6-1	207	16
24.	Georgia	5-2	144	NR
	Arizona State	5-2	144	18

Others receiving votes: Penn State 130, Notre Dame 107, Southern Cal 87, SM 19, Baylor 19, Texas 12, Southern Miss, Cincinnati 4, Wake Forest 3, Rutgers 2

**USA Today/Coaches Top 25 Coaches Poll
(October 16, 2011)**

Rk.	Team (1st place)	Rec	Pts.	Prv
1.	Oklahoma (31)	6-0	1426	1
2.	LSU (15)	7-0	1410	2
3.	Alabama (12)	7-0	1403	3
4.	Wisconsin (1)	6-0	1262	4
5.	Stanford	6-0	1222	5
6.	Oklahoma State	6-0	1173	7
7.	Boise State	6-0	1172	6
8.	Clemson	7-0	1028	8
	Oregon	5-1	1028	9
10.	Arkansas	5-1	931	11
11.	Nebraska	5-1	775	14
12.	South Carolina	6-1	765	13
13.	Michigan State	5-1	690	19
14.	West Virginia	5-1	688	16
	Virginia Tech	6-1	688	17
16.	Kansas State	6-0	678	18
17.	Michigan	6-1	458	10
18.	Texas A&M	4-2	415	23
19.	Georgia Tech	6-1	396	12
20.	Houston	6-0	359	22
21.	Illinois	6-1	260	15
22.	Penn State	6-1	253	25
23.	Auburn	5-2	202	NR
24.	Washington	5-1	174	NR
25.	Arizona State	5-2	86	20

Others: Georgia 60, Notre Dame 36, Rutgers 31, SMU 27, Texas 26, Southern Miss 14, Cincinnati 14, Baylor 9, North Carolina 9, Virginia 3, Temple 3, TCU 1

Coaches in Press Box: Danny Pearman and Charlie Harbison. All other full time coaches on the field.

run capped the drive. After both teams traded punts on the game's next four possessions, Chandler Catanzaro booted a 48-yard field goal.

Late in the first half, the Tar Heels drove 80 yards. T.J. Yates' nine-yard touchdown pass to Jheranie Boyd gave the Tar Heels a 14-3 lead.

In the third quarter, DeAndre Hopkins returned a punt 31 yards to the Tar Heel 21. Three plays later, Jamie Harper scored on a 10-yard draw play to cut North Carolina's lead to 14-10.

After Catanzaro missed a 42-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter, North Carolina drove 76 yards in 14 plays and took 8:06 off the clock. Its drive was extended by a penalty on third or fourth down three times. White, who had a team-high 89 rushing yards and two scores along with six catches for 90 yards, scored on a 26-yard run.

But with 5:31 left in the game, Kyle Parker connected with Jaron Brown for a 74-yard touchdown pass. The two-point conversion attempt failed and the Tigers trailed 21-16. However, the Tar Heels were able to milk all but 13 seconds off the clock to preserve the win. In the fourth quarter, North Carolina had the ball for 13:15.

Clemson, who did not allow a sack, outgained North Carolina 305-255, while neither team committed a turnover. However, the Tigers were flagged nine times for 81 yards. The Tar Heels, who were 3-14 on third down, converted all four of their fourth-down opportunities.

Hopkins, who was named ACC Rookie-of-the-Week, had seven catches for 46 yards and added the 31-yard punt return. Dwayne Allen totaled seven catches for 55 yards, while Brown had four receptions for a career high 107 yards.

**Last Meeting vs. North Carolina at Clemson
Clemson 52, North Carolina 7
September 23, 2006 at Clemson, SC**

Clemson scored seven touchdowns, all on the ground, and amassed 504 yards of total offense on its way to a 52-7 triumph over North Carolina at Memorial Stadium on September 23, 2006, the last time Clemson and North Carolina met at Memorial Stadium. The seven rushing touchdowns were the most by a Clemson team since 1982.

It was the Tigers' largest margin of victory in the 53-game series that dates to 1897, and also came on the day when Clemson honored its 1981 National Championship team on the 25th anniversary of the undefeated season.

The #19 Tigers scored touchdowns on their first three possessions and never looked back. Clemson built a 35-0 halftime lead and 52-0 lead at the end of three quarters before the Tar Heels finally got on the board in the fourth quarter.

Clemson rushed for 324 yards despite not having a 100-yard rusher. The Tigers also passed for 180 yards, giving the team 504 yards of total offense on 79 plays, and had 30 first downs. Clemson did not punt in the game, scored all seven of its touchdowns after having first-and-goal, and had the ball for 38:17 to the Tar Heels' 21:43.

The Tar Heels totaled just 45 plays on offense, and had 150 yards along with only eight first downs. The Tiger defense also limited North Carolina to just 7-23 passing, 1-10 on third downs, and no offensive plays longer than 19 yards.

North Carolina was hindered by poor

field position the entire contest, as it did not start any of its 11 offensive drives outside its own 23. The Tar Heels' average starting field position was their own 19, while Clemson's was its own 43.

James Davis rushed for a game-high 95 yards on 15 carries and scored four touchdowns. C.J. Spiller carried 12 times for 58 yards and totaled two scores, while Demerick Chancellor (45) and Reggie Merriweather (43) posted solid rushing numbers as well.

Will Proctor was 9-14 passing for 134 yards, including two strikes to Thomas Hunter. The tight end had catches of 47 yards and 24 yards. Chancellor had a team-tying-high three catches for 30 yards.

Nick Watkins led Clemson with six tackles and two tackles for loss. Chris Clemons added five tackles, two pass breakups, and an interception. Dorell Scott and Gaines Adams contributed a sack apiece, while Adams also had four quarterback pressures.

Clemson Scores Record 56 Points at Maryland

Clemson had a big day on offense in the victory over Maryland, scoring 56 points in the process. Here are some notes about Clemson's day on offense in College Park:

- Scored 56 points, the most ever by the Clemson program in an ACC Road game. The previous best was 55 in a 55-0 victory over Virginia in 1984. Most points by the Tigers against an FBS opponent since a 63-7 win over Temple in 2006 and most points against an ACC opponent since a 59-31 win over Duke in 2001.

- Clemson had 306 yards rushing in 42 attempts for an average of 7.3 yards per rush. Clemson added 270 through the air, an average of 7.1 yards per attempt.

- With at least 200 yards rushing and 200 yards passing in the same game, Clemson is now 56-0-1 when it has at least 200 of each in the same game, and 56-0-1 when it has at least 500 yards of total offense.

- It was just the 12th game in Clemson history in which the Tigers had at least 300 yards rushing and 200 yards passing.

- Clemson had a season high eight rushes of at least 10 yards.

- Clemson had 100 yards of total offense on its first drive of the game, 95 of it rushing.

- Clemson had a 250-yard passer (Boyd with 270), a 200-yard rusher (Ellington 212) and a 100 yard receiver (Watkins with 105).

Notes on the Clemson offense in 2011

- Clemson ranks 15th in the nation in total offense, averaging 487 yards per game, and 21st in scoring, averaging 38 points per game. Both figures are at a Clemson record pace.

- Quarterback Tajh Boyd is 13th in the nation in passing efficiency and 13th in total offense.

- Boyd has thrown for at least 200 yards in every game and set a school record for wins by a starting quarterback at the beginning of a career as the starter.

- Boyd has 19 touchdown passes in seven games, already the fifth most for a season in school history.

- Sammy Watkins is 10th in the nation in all-purpose running and 18 in receiving yards per game. He is tied for third in touchdown receptions with eight.

- Watkins was National Player of the Week, National Freshman of the Week and ACC Player of the Week for his 345-yard all-purpose running performance against Maryland. He broke C.J.

Spiller's single game record of 312 yards against Florida State in 2009.
 •Watkins has already set or tied nine Clemson freshman records.
 •Clemson offense has outscored the opposition 68-23 in the fourth quarter this year.
 •Clemson has scored at least 35 points in six of the seven games, and gained at least 440 yards of total offense in six of the seven games.
 •An example of Clemson's balance, Tigers have at least one rushing touchdown and one passing touchdown in all seven games so far this year. Clemson also has one of the top 25 rushers in the nation (Andre Ellington, 24th) and receivers (Sammy Watkins, 18th in yardage).
 •Clemson has scored in 19 consecutive quarters, just one from the all-time Clemson record of 20 straight in 1983.

Tigers from the Tar Heel State

Clemson has 12 natives of the Tar Heel state on its roster. The list includes two current starters, tight end Dwayne Allen and starting tackle Landon Walker.

Allen is one of the top tight ends in the nation and has 27 receptions for 381 yards and four touchdowns so far. He is a candidate for the John Mackey Award. Walker is in his fourth year as a starting offensive tackle and will make his 43rd career start on Saturday. His dad, Gary Walker, was a member of Clemson's 1981 National Championship team, a team that will be honored this Saturday.

Clemson has had solid players from the Tar Heel state in recent years. Two starters from last year's team who came to Clemson from North Carolina are now starting in the NFL, Marcus Gilchrist with the San Diego Chargers and Chris Hairston with the Buffalo Bills.

Clemson Players from North Carolina (12)

No	Name	Pos	Hometown	High School
12	Stephone Anthony	LB	Polkton	Anson
14	@Morgan Roberts	QB	Charlotte	Charlotte Country
33	Spencer Shuey	LB	Charlotte	South Mecklenburg
43	Tyler Shatley	DT	Icard	East Burke
48	@Colton Walls	TE	Charlotte	Charlotte Latin
52	Phillip Fajgenbaum	SN	Raleigh	Ravenscroft
72	#Landon Walker	OT	N. Wilkesboro	East Wilkes
73	@Joe Gore	DE	Lake Waccamaw	East Columbus
83	#Dwayne Allen	TE	Fayetteville	Terry Sanford
88	@Eric Mac Lain	TE	Hope Mills	Jack Britt
90	Kourtnei Brown	DE	Charlotte	Victory Christian
95	Tra Thomas	DT	Wadesboro	Anson

#Starter, @red-shirting

Seven Different Tigers with an Interception

Clemson ranks fourth in the ACC in interceptions with seven. One of the unusual stats about the Tigers is that Clemson has had exactly one interception in each game and they have been recorded by seven different players. This is the second straight year Clemson's first seven interceptions have been recorded by seven different players.

Watkins Named Paul Hornung Award Co-Player of the Week

Clemson freshman Sammy Watkins was named one of two Paul Hornung Award Players of the Week for his performance in Clemson's win at Maryland. The Hornung Award, presented by Texas Roadhouse, is awarded annually to the most versatile player in major college football.

Watkins had a Clemson record 345 all-purpose yards against Maryland. He had eight catches for 105 yards and two scores, and five kickoff returns for 207 yards. He also had a 33-yard run in his only carry. The 345 all-purpose yards broke C.J. Spiller's record of 312 set against Florida State in 2009 and rank as the fourth most for a single game in ACC history.

Watkins had three total touchdowns, the two reception scores, and an 89-yard kickoff return for a score. The three touchdowns tied a Clemson freshman record for a single game set by Ronald Williams against Appalachian State in 1990. Watkins 207 kickoff return yards were the second most in Clemson history. Justin Miller had a then NCAA record 282 kickoff return yards at Florida State in 2004.

Clemson Top All-Purpose Running Games

Yds	Player	Opponent	Year	Rush	Rec	PR	KOR
345	Sammy Watkins	at Maryland	2011	33	105		207
312	C.J. Spiller	Florida State	2009	165	67	9	71
310	C.J. Spiller	at Miami (FL)	2009	81	104		125
301	C.J. Spiller	Georgia Tech	2009	233	5		63
282	Justin Miller	at Florida State	2004				282
274	Terrence Flagler	at Wake Forest	1986	209	65		
267	Tony Horne	Florida State	1997		131	27	109

Clemson top Kickoff Return Yards Games

Yds	Player	Opponent	Year
282	Justin Miller	at Florida State	2004
207	Sammy Watkins	at Maryland	2011
174	Dave Thomas	at Georgia Tech	1972
160	John Shields	Alabama	1969
159	Dennis Goss	at North Carolina	1971
158	Terrance Roulhac	South Carolina	1986

ACC's Top All-Purpose Running Games

Yds	Player (School)	Opponent	Year
411	John Leach (WF)	Maryland	1993
397	Brandon Tate (UNC)	McNeese St	2008
372	Pete Warrick (FSU)	Clemson	1997
345	Sammy Watkins (Clem)	Maryland	2011

Clemson Registers Second Best Comeback on Record

Clemson overcame an 18-point deficit on two occasions and defeated Maryland 56-45 on October 15 in College Park, MD. It was the highest scoring game for the Tigers in an ACC game since the Tigers scored 59 in a 59-31 win over Duke in 2001. The 101 combined points were the most in a Clemson game since the Tigers defeated Wake Forest 82-24 on Halloween 1981.

Clemson fell behind 28-10 in the first half as the Terps scored 14 early points off Clemson turnovers. The Tigers had allowed just 16 opponent points off turnovers in the first six games, then Maryland got 14 in the first quarter.

Clemson still trailed 35-17 in the second half and Maryland had the ball. But, freshman Bashaud Breeland had an interception return that set up a score, as Clemson went on a 25-3 run to take a 42-38 lead.

Maryland came back to take a 45-42 lead on a long drive with seven minutes left. But, Sammy Watkins returned the ensuing kickoff 89 yards for a score. It gave Clemson a 49-45 lead and the Tigers never trailed again. Andre Ellington, who rushed for a career high 212 yards, clinched the game with a 44-yard touchdown run with four minutes left.

It was the second largest deficit overcome to gain victory in school history. The only comeback that is better took place in 1992 when Clemson overcame a 28-point deficit at Virginia to win 29-28.

Earlier this year Clemson trailed Auburn by 14 points, 21-7, before winning 38-24. This is the first team in Clemson history to overcome a pair of 14 point deficits to win in the same season.

Clemson's Greatest Comebacks

Date	Opponent	Score	Def	Final
10-10-92	at Virginia	0-28	28	29-28
10-15-11	at Maryland	17-35	18	56-45
10-21-00	at North Carolina	0-17	17	38-24
9-24-66	Virginia	18-35	17	40-35
9-17-11	Auburn	7-21	14	38-24
9-26-53	at Boston College	0-14	14	14-14
11-17-62	at Maryland	0-14	14	17-14
10-11-80	at Virginia	10-24	*14	27-24
11-2-02	at Duke	10-24	*14	34-31
11-6-04	at Miami (FL)	3-17	14	24-17
10-7-06	at Wake Forest	3-17	*14	27-17

2011 games in bold, *Fourth Quarter deficit

Notes on Dabo Swinney

•Has taken Clemson to a 7-0 record to start the 2011 season. He is one of just four coaches to lead Clemson to a 7-0 or better start to a season. He joins Frank Howard (1948, 11-0), Danny Ford (1981, 12-0) and Tommy Bowden (2000, 8-0 start)

•Has an 18-4 record in Clemson Memorial Stadium for his career, a .818 winning percentage. That is tied for the third best home winning percentage for a Clemson coach in history. Josh Cody was 13-0-1, Ken Hatfield was 22-3-1 (.865), and Charley Pell was 9-2 for a .818 percentage, the same as Swinney.

•Swinney has an overall record of 26-15 for a .634 winning percentage. That ranks as the fourth best for a Clemson coach since 1903.

•Has coached a unanimous first-team All-American each of the last two years, C.J. Spiller in 2009 and Da'Quan Bowers in 2010.

•Listed among five coaches being followed by officials at the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award Foundation. The Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Award is presented annually by the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation of Chattanooga, TN. The others are Bret Bielema of Wisconsin, Nick Saban of Alabama, Bob Stoops of Oklahoma and Ron Zook of Illinois.

Clemson Defense Tops in ACC

Clemson leads the ACC in scoring defense and total defense in ACC games so far this year. The Tigers have given up 23.0 points per game in four conference games, best in the ACC ahead of second place Virginia's 23.5 points per ACC contest. Clemson has allowed 337.2 yards per game in league play, 11 yards a game ahead of Virginia's 348.4. The Tigers have given up 192.5 yards per game in the air in league contests, third best in the ACC and has four interceptions in the four games, third in the league.

Ellington Records Career High

Andre Ellington moved from 42nd to 24th in the nation in rushing yards per game with his 212-yard effort at Maryland. That was his career high, far ahead of the 166 he had in a victory over Georgia Tech in 2010. It was his third 100-yard game of the season, his second in a row, and seventh of his career. This is the second time in his career he has had back to back 100-yard games. He had 140 vs. Auburn and 107 vs. Miami last year.

So far this year, Ellington has had 165 against Wofford, 117 vs. Boston College and 212 against Maryland. If he gets 100 yards against North Carolina it would be his first time with three straight 100-yard rushing games.

Ellington enters the North Carolina game ranked 10th in the nation in yards per attempt for a career with a 5.90 figure. He has 325 attempts for 1917 career yards and 21 touchdowns. Obviously he needs just 83 yards to reach 2000 rushing yards for his career. When he does he will become the 18th player in Clemson history with at least 2000 rushing yards.

So far this year Ellington has 740 rushing yards on 139 attempts, a 5.3 average. He has seven touchdowns and 16 runs of at least 10 yards.

Allen on Midseason Mackey Award List

Clemson tight end Dwayne Allen is one of 25 tight ends from across the country on the John Mackey Award midseason list. It is the second straight year Allen has been named to the list for the award that goes to the top tight end in college football.

Allen has had at least four catches in each of the last five games, including the win over Auburn when he had seven catches for 80 yards and a touchdown. For the year, Allen has 27 receptions for 381 yards and four touchdowns. He averages 14.1 yards per reception.

Allen was also named first-team Midseason All-American by ESPN.com

Tigers in the NCAA Top 25**Team**

- 15th in total offense, 487.14 yards/game
- 21st in scoring offense with 38.0 points per game
- 20th in kickoff returns with 24.81 average
- 15th in passing efficiency with 156.3 points

Individual

- Andre Ellington, 24th in rushing, 105.7 yards per game
- Tajh Boyd, 13th in passing efficiency, 159.8 points
- Tajh Boyd, 13th in total offense, 309.8 yards per game
- Tajh Boyd 5th in touchdown passes, 19
- Sammy Watkins, 10th in all-purpose, 172.14 yards per game
- *Sammy Watkins 6th in kickoff returns with 30.73 average
- Sammy Watkins 18th in reception yard per game, 104.0
- Sammy Watkins, 3rd in touchdown receptions with 8
- Andre Branch 6th in sacks/game with 1.0
- Andre Branch 6th in tackles for loss per game with 1.71
- Chandler Catanzaro is 11th in field goals per game with 1.71
- Chandler Catanzaro is 25th in scoring with 9.14 points per game
- Dawson Zimmerman is 25th in punting average with 43.17

Watkins Breaks Spiller's Record

It took Sammy Watkins just seven games to break one of C.J. Spiller's most impressive single game records. Watkins had 345 all-purpose running yards in the 56-45 win in College Park. The native of Fort Myers, FL had five kickoff returns for 207 yards, including an 89-yarder for a touchdown and a 70-yarder that set up another score. He also had eight receptions for 105 yards, plus a 33-yard run from scrimmage.

As you can see by the list below, Watkins already owns 11 Clemson freshman records and more should be on the way.

The 345 all-purpose yards were not only a Clemson record, but the fourth highest single game total in ACC history. The record is 411 yards by John Leach of Wake Forest vs. Maryland in 1993

Watkins broke C.J. Spiller's Clemson standard of 312 all-purpose running yards against Florida State in 2009. Watkins also scored three touchdowns, two receiving and one on a kickoff return and joined Ronald Williams as the only Clemson freshmen to score three touchdowns in a game. Williams had three against Appalachian State in 1990. Watkins has been honored five times in seven games by the ACC this year. He has been named ACC Rookie of the Week four times, and the ACC Receiver of the Week twice.

Watkins has been named ACC Rookie of the week four times this year and has been the receiver of the week twice. He has 46 receptions for 728 yards and eight touchdowns this year in just seven games.

He already has the Clemson freshman record for reception yards in a season and needs just eight catches to get the receptions mark for a freshman. He established the freshman touchdown reception record in just four games. He has nine touchdowns overall and needs just three touchdowns to tie Spiller's freshman touchdown record. Spiller will be on hand Saturday to see this incredible freshman in person.

Clemson Freshman Records**Single Game**

Receptions: 10 by Sammy Watkins vs. Auburn, 2011

Reception Yards: 155 by Sammy Watkins vs. Auburn, 2011

Reception TDs: 2 by Sammy Watkins vs. Auburn, Maryland 2011

Total TDs: 3 by Ronald Williams vs. Appalachian State, 1990

3 by Sammy Watkins vs. Maryland, 2011

Total Points: 18 by Ronald Williams vs. Appalachian State, 1990

18 by Sammy Watkins vs. Maryland, 2011

Rushing Yards: 234 by Don King vs. Fordham, 1952

All-Purpose Yards: #345 by Sammy Watkins vs. Maryland, 2011

Long Reception: 82 by C.J. Spiller vs. Boston College, 2006

Long Run: 88 by Bobby Gage vs. Presbyterian, 1945

Long Punt Return: 92 by Jacoby Ford vs. Florida International, 2006

Long Kickoff Return: 100 by Derrick Hamilton vs. Maryland, 2001

Most Punt Return Yards: 116 by Darnell Stephens vs. Maryland, 1991

Most Kickoff Return Yards: 207 by Sammy Watkins (5 returns) vs. Maryland, 2011

Season

Receptions: 53 by Derrick Hamilton, 2001

Reception Yards: 728 by Sammy Watkins, 2011

100-yard Receiving Games: 3 DeAndre Hopkins, 2010

3, Sammy Watkins, 2011

150-Yard Receiving Games: 2, Sammy Watkins, 2011

Yds/Reception: 18.0 by Ray Williams, 1983

All-Purpose Yards: 1415, C.J. Spiller, 2006

Total Points: 88 by Nelson Welch, 991

Total Touchdowns: 12 by C.J. Spiller, 2006

Reception TDs: 8 by Sammy Watkins, 2011

Punt Return Yards: 362 by Darnell Stephens, 1991

Kickoff Return Yards: 494 by Ray Williams

Consecutive Games with a TD: 5 by C.J. Spiller, 2006

#all-time Clemson record regardless of class

Watkins sweeps Awards from Rivals.com

Clemson wide receiver Sammy Watkins was named National Player of the Week, National Freshman of the Week and ACC Player of the Week by Rivals.com for his performance against Maryland on Saturday. It is the third time he has been named the National Freshman of the Week within the first seven weeks of the season by Rivals.com.

Watkins had 345 all-purpose yards in Clemson's 56-45 victory over Maryland in College Park, a victory that gave the Tigers a 7-0 record overall, 4-0 in the ACC. Watkins had eight receptions for 105 yards and two touchdowns, a 33-yard rush and five kickoff returns for 207 yards, including an 89-yard return for a touchdown.

Watkins broke C.J. Spiller's Clemson single game all-purpose running record. Spiller had 312 all-purpose yards against Florida State in 2009. Watkins now has 46 receptions for 728 yards and eight touchdowns, marks that are already Clemson freshman records.

The native of Fort Myers, FL is 10th in the nation in all-purpose running yards per game (172.1), and 18th in reception yards per game (104.0). He is third in the nation in touchdown receptions with eight. He leads all freshmen nationally in reception yards per game, all-purpose running yards per game and touchdown receptions.

1981 Remembered This Week

We will honor Clemson's greatest team Saturday as we celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the 1981 National Championship team. Danny Ford's Tigers finished with a 12-0 record that year and ranked as

the only team in the nation to defeat three top 10 teams. It is the only perfect season for the Clemson program since 1948. Of course this year's Clemson team has a chance to tie that mark, but they are just half way there. For Clemson to run the table this year it would have to win 14 games.

North Carolina Update

North Carolina enters Saturday's game at Clemson with a 5-2 record overall, 1-2 in the ACC. Their only two losses have come to Georgia Tech on the road and to Miami at home. Both losses have been by a touchdown or less.

Everett Withers has done an outstanding job for the Tar Heels as head coach this year. He has the team showing some balance on offense and the defense ranks in the top 25 in the nation in scoring defense.

There will be two interesting matchups when Clemson faces North Carolina. When it comes to wide receivers you won't find two better players in the conference than Clemson's Sammy Watkins and North Carolina's Dwight Jones. They are amazingly similar in terms of statistics. Both Watkins and Jones have 46 receptions to rank in a tie for third in the ACC. Watkins has 728 yards and eight touchdowns and Jones has 687 yards and eight touchdowns. They are tied for third in the nation in touchdown receptions.

There will also be two outstanding quarterbacks in the house on Saturday. Clemson's Tajh Boyd is first in the ACC in passing yards per game, while North Carolina's Bryn Renner is first in the ACC in passing efficiency. Boyd leads the ACC in touchdown passes with 19 and Brenner leads the ACC in yards per pass attempt with 9.37.

Boyd Sets Victories Record, Challenging Others

Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd completed 26 of 38 passes for 270 yards and four touchdowns in the win at Maryland. He led Clemson to a seventh straight victory and established a record in the process. Boyd is the first Clemson quarterback to win his first seven games as a starter. The previous record was six by Mike Epley over the 1982 and 1983 seasons.

Boyd has 19 touchdown passes and just three interceptions this year and ranks 13th in the nation in passing efficiency. His 287 passing yards per game and 309.9 total offense per game lead the ACC and are on a Clemson record pace. Charlie Whitehurst has the record for passing yards per game with 274 yards per game in 2003 and Woody Dantzler has the total offense record with 303.3 yards per game in 2001. The touchdown pass record is 27 by Cullen Harper in 2007. Boyd already has four games with at least three touchdown passes and has thrown at least one scoring pass in every game.

If Boyd throws a touchdown pass on Saturday he will break Kyle Parker's record for consecutive games with a scoring pass. Parker had seven games in a row during the 2009 season.

Clemson 20-7 in Redemption Home Games Since 1999

For the fourth time this season, a team that defeated Clemson on the road last year, will come to Memorial Stadium when North Carolina comes to Death Valley on October 22.

The Tigers are 3-0 so far this year against teams that downed the Tigers last year away from home. In 2010, Auburn defeated Clemson in Auburn 27-24 in overtime, then the Tigers won 38-24 at Clemson on September 17. The following week, Clemson defeated Florida State, 35-30. The Seminoles defeated Clemson last year 16-13 in Tallahassee.

Boston College came to town after downing the Tigers 16-10 last year and left with a 36-14 loss. North Carolina comes to Clemson this Saturday after defeating the Tigers last year in Chapel Hill, 21-16.

Clemson has been successful in games in this situation in recent years. Since 1999, Clemson is 20-7 at home against teams that defeated the Tigers on the road the previous year. Clemson won nine straight games in this situation between the 2003 Virginia game and the 2006 Georgia Tech game. Virginia Tech broke the streak in 2007 with a 41-23 win at Clemson.

Goodman Has Best Day vs. Boston College

Junior defensive end Mallicah Goodman had his best game of the season in the win over Boston College. The native of Florence, SC had six tackles, but three of them were for a loss, including a sack. He had all three tackles for loss in the first quarter and was a big reason Boston College had just 14 points and 258 yards of total offense.

Goodman has 29 tackles for the year and nine quarterback pressures. He is second on the Clemson team in quarterback pressures. This is Goodman's first year as a starter. He played behind 2010 Bronko Nagurski Award winner Da'Quan Bowers last year.

Six Players with a Play of 50 Yards or More

An indication of the amount of weapons on the Clemson offense is the number of players with a play of 50 yards or more so far this year. Through seven games Clemson has six different players who have been involved in 10 scrimmage plays of 50 yards or more. The record for a season is seven different players, established in 2001.

So far this year, Sammy Watkins has had three different pass plays of at least 60 yards, two 62-yard receptions and a 65 yard catch. Mike Bellamy has a 75-yard run, Andre Ellington had a 74-yard run, Dwayne Allen has a 54-yard reception, DeAndre Hopkins has a 50-yard catch and Martavis Bryant has a 54 yard catch.

Clemson one of 10 Undefeated Teams

Clemson is one of 10 undefeated teams in college football, including one of just three who are 7-0.

Schedule of Undefeated Teams this Week

Team	W-L	Opponent this week
Alabama	7-0	vs. Tennessee
LSU	7-0	vs. Auburn
Wisconsin	6-0	at Michigan State
Boise State	6-0	vs. Air Force
Kansas State	6-0	at Kansas
Stanford	6-0	vs. Washington
Oklahoma	6-0	vs. Texas Tech
Clemson	7-0	vs. North Carolina
Houston	6-0	vs. Marshall
Oklahoma State	6-0	at Missouri

Tigers Bowl Eligible on October 8

When Clemson defeated Boston College on October 8 the Tigers became bowl eligible with six victories. That is the earliest Clemson has been bowl eligible in its history.

Clemson won its sixth game of the 2000 season on October 7, but one of the victories to open that season was against Division I-AA Citadel. In those days you could not count a win over a Division I-AA team towards your six wins to become bowl eligible.

Stoudt Performs Well off the Bench

Clemson true freshman Cole Stoudt came off the bench to guide the Clemson offense to victory over Boston College on October 8. Stoudt replaced starter Tajh Boyd after Boyd suffered a hip injury on Clemson's first drive of the second half. Boyd played the first 52 snaps at quarterback for Clemson and Stoudt was at the helm for the last 28.

Stoudt completed 6-10 passes for 37 yards during his time at quarterback. He entered with the score 23-7 in favor of the Tigers so he helped the Tigers to 13 points. It was a solid performance because he had not played since the opening game of the year and he had taken just seven snaps prior to entering the Boston College game. Stoudt is the son of former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Cliff Stoudt.

Clemson's Offensive Improvement

Clemson has made an incredible improvement from the 2010 season in terms of offensive production and it is a big reason the Tigers have already reached their victory total of all last year by midseason.

A look to the chart below shows that Clemson has improved in terms of total offense from 88th in the nation to 15th so far this year, from 78th to 26th in passing offense and from 86th to 21st in scoring. Clemson was 100th in passing efficiency last year and is now 15th this year.

In terms of yardage, Clemson is averaging nearly 100 yards more a game through the air, nearly 153 more yards a game in total offense and 14 points per game higher.

Clemson Offense Comparison		
Category (Rank/Figure)	2010	2011
Record	6-7	7-0
Rushing	79/130.0	31/193.4
Passing	78/195.6	26/293.7
Total Offense	88/334.6	15/487.14
Scoring	86/24.0	21/38.0
Passing Efficiency	100/115.3	15/156.3

Watkins Approaching a Career Record

One of the most telling statistics on the impact of Clemson freshman Sammy Watkins has been his ability to have high receiving yardage games. In just seven games, Watkins already has three games of at least 140 receiving yards. That ranks second in Clemson history.

Let me repeat that, Sammy Watkins is second in Clemson history in career receiving yard games of 140 yards or more. Perry Tuttle had

four in his 46 games at Clemson from 1978-81 and Watkins needs just one more to tie him for the career record. You just don't run into a lot of freshmen setting career records.

Watkins had 10 catches for 155 yards in the victory over Auburn. He followed that with seven for 142 in the win over Florida State. Then, in the win over Boston College, he had seven catches for 152 yards.

Watkins has five of the top 12 single game freshman reception bests in Clemson history, including his freshman record 10 catches against Auburn in his third career game.

Clemson Career Leaders in Receiving Games of 140 Yards or More

Rk	Player	Years	GP	140 Games
1.	Perry Tuttle	1978-81	46	4
2.	Sammy Watkins	2011	7	3
3.	Rod Gardner	1997-00	47	2
4.	Aaron Kelly	2005-08	51	2
5.	Brian Wofford	1996-99	47	2

Clemson Freshman Top Reception Games

Player	Opponent	Year	Rec-Yds
Sammy Watkins	Auburn	2011	10-155
Terry Smith	Maryland	1990	9-84
Derrick Hamilton	Virginia	2001	9-90
Derrick Hamilton	NC State	2001	8-106
Sammy Watkins	Maryland	2011	8-105
Kenya Crooks	Georgia	1994	8-66
Sammy Watkins	Boston College	2011	7-152
Sammy Watkins	Florida State	2011	7-142
Sammy Watkins	Troy	2011	7-81
Aaron Kelly	Tempe	2005	7-155
DeAndre Hopkins	North Carolina	2010	7-46
Derrick Hamilton	Florida State	2001	7-88
Derrick Hamilton	Georgia Tech	2001	7-75

It Hasn't Taken Sammy Watkins Long to...

- Set the Clemson freshman record for touchdown receptions. He has eight and the record was four set by many players, including current teammate DeAndre Hopkins. Watkins set the record in just four games.

- Join Rod Gardner as the only receivers in Clemson history to have consecutive games with at least 140 receiving yards. He had 155 on 10 catches in the win over Auburn and 7-141 in the win over Florida State.

- Lead the team in all-purpose running yards (1205), receptions (46), and receiving yards (728).

- Be named National Freshman of the Week three times within the first seven weeks of the season. He was named by Rivals.com for the Auburn, Florida State and Maryland games. He was named the National Player of the Week for the Maryland game as well.

- Become the first Clemson freshman to score a touchdown in each of his first four games. He is the last Clemson player of any class to score a TD in each of the first four games of the season since C.J. Spiller scored a TD in every game of the 2009 season (14 games).

- Become the first freshman in ACC history to score six receiving touchdowns within the first four games of his career. Previous best was just five. The ACC freshman reception touchdown record is nine by Greg Carr of Florida State in 2005 and Heath Miller of Virginia in 2002.

- Become just the third FBS freshman to get at least six touchdown receptions in the first four games of his freshman year since 2000. The only other FBS freshmen to do it since 2000 are Michael Crabtree of Texas Tech, who had 11 in his first four games of 2007, and Todd Blythe of Iowa State, who had six in his first four games as a freshman in 2004.

- Record three receiving games of at least 140 yards, second on the Clemson career list behind Perry Tuttle who had four.

- Win ACC Rookie of the Week honors four times in the first seven games.

Clemson Has Scored in 19 Straight Quarters

Entering the North Carolina game, Clemson has scored in 19 consecutive quarters and in 26 of 28 quarters this year. That is the longest streak for a Clemson team since 1983 when the Tigers had a streak of 20 in a row from.

This 2011 team is just one quarter away from tying the school record of 20. Clemson scored in 20 straight quarters during the 1983 season, a streak that was stopped by North Carolina on November 5. This is now the second longest streak.

It is interesting to note that three of the top four streaks in school history have been stopped by North Carolina. Clemson is now going to try to set the record against North Carolina.

Clemson has scored in every quarter this year but two, the second period of the Troy game and the first period of the Auburn game.

Most Consecutive Quarters Scoring, Clemson History

Year	Started	Ended	Qtrs
1983	9/24/83	11/5/83 vs. UNC (1 st)	20
2011	9/17/11	??	19
2001	9/8/11	10/20/11 vs. UNC (2 nd)	17
2003	11/1/03	1/2/04 vs. Tennessee (3 rd)	15
1978	10/14/78	11/11/78 vs. UNC (2 nd)	15

Zimmerman Ranks among Clemson's Best

Clemson punter Dawson Zimmerman is having another outstanding year. He ranks second in the ACC in punting (min of 3.6 attempts) with a 43.2 average. With the success of the Clemson offense, he has just 29 punts in seven games. He has nine punts inside the 20 and just four touchbacks.

Zimmerman is now sixth in Clemson history in punting average with a 41.2 average. He has 49 punts inside the 20 against just 15 touchbacks, so he has an ability to pin teams inside their own redzone.

Zimmerman's list of responsibilities has increased. Kickoff man and holder Spencer Benton suffered a shoulder injury against Virginia Tech and is out for at least six weeks. Zimmerman has taken over the kickoff duties and the holding duties.

How did he do as a holder? In his first full game with the assignment, Chandler Catanzaro was 5-5 on field goals, including two of at least 40 yards. He also did well on his seven kickoffs.

Entering the North Carolina game, Zimmerman is 25th in the nation in punting.

Catanzaro Has Best Day

Clemson kicker Chandler Catanzaro was a perfect 5-5 on field goals in the win over Boston College. He connected on kicks of 18, 20, 38, 42 and 47 yards on a windy day in Death Valley.

Catanzaro is now 12-14 on field goals for the year, including 5-6 on attempts of 40 yards or more. For his career he is 11-15 on field goal attempts from that distance, 73.3 percent, better than his percentage inside 40 yards (13-19 for .684).

For his performance against Boston College, Catanzaro won the Leather Helmet Award, an honor presented by the Boston College touchdown Club to the MVP of the Clemson vs. Boston College game. He also was named the National Kicker of the Week by the College Football Performance Awards, and was one of three kickers named as the Lou Groza Award Performer of the Week.

ESPN.com named Catanzaro the mid-season first-team All-America kicker. He has made eight straight field goals entering the North Carolina game.

Clemson Had Three Straight Wins over Top 20 Teams

With its October 1 win over 10th ranked (USA Today) and 11th ranked AP Virginia Tech, **Clemson became the first ACC team to win three consecutive games over teams ranked in the top 25 of both major polls.** Clemson defeated Auburn and Florida State the two weeks before that and both were ranked in the top 25 of both polls.

Clemson had won back-to-back games over ranked teams four times previously, in 1982, 1983, 1988 and 2005. Georgia Tech (1959) and Virginia Tech (2002) had done three victories in three weeks over ranked team, but they were not in the ACC at the time of the accomplishment. Maryland beat three straight top 20 teams in 1984, but two of the teams in the streak were only ranked in one poll.

The win at Virginia Tech was Clemson's 20th road win over a ranked team in its history, but its first by 20 points. Clemson's previous largest margin of victory over a ranked team on the road was 11 points, a 28-17 win at 19th ranked North Carolina in 1994, and a 34-23 win at 16th ranked Florida State in 1989.

Clemson's defense was outstanding in the 23-3 victory. Clemson held Virginia Tech without a touchdown in a home game for the first time since 1995.

Clemson Moves to eighth in Both Polls

Clemson moved from unranked in both polls, to eighth in both rankings with its three straight wins over top 20 teams. This was the highest ranking for the Tigers since October 22, 2000 when the Tigers were fifth in AP and fourth in USA Today after an 8-0 start to the year. Clemson was ranked in the top 10 for six straight weeks that year.

This is Clemson's third straight week ranked eighth in both polls. The Tigers are also eighth in the Harris Interactive poll.

The last time Clemson was ranked in the top 10 was for the pre-

season poll of 2008 when the Tigers were ninth in both polls. The last time Clemson was ranked in the top 10 during the regular season was in 2006. Clemson was 10th after a 7-1 start to that year. Clemson then dropped out of the top 10 with a 24-7 loss at Virginia Tech. Ironically, Clemson now enters the top 10 for the first time since that loss at Virginia Tech with a victory over the Hokies in Blacksburg.

Stopping Streaks and Landmark Wins

On September 17 Clemson ended Auburn's 17-game winning streak, the longest streak in Auburn history, the longest active streak in the nation and the longest streak Clemson has ended in its history. Clemson also ended its 14-game losing streak to Auburn. The Tigers had not beaten the Auburn Tigers since 1951.

At Virginia Tech, Clemson ended the Hokies, 12-game ACC winning streak, its 14-game regular season winning streak, and its five game winning streak against Clemson. The Tigers had not beaten Virginia Tech since 1989.

Tigers Start 7-0

Clemson is 7-0 for the first time since 2000 when the Tigers started 8-0. It is just the fourth start of at least 7-0 in the history of Clemson football, just the second since Clemson won the National Championship with a 12-0 mark in 1981.

Clemson is now 4-0 in the ACC to start the season for the first time since 2000 when the Tigers defeated started 5-0 in the ACC.

Clemson won five straight games to open the season against five teams who won some type of a championship last year. Clemson defeated Troy (Sun Belt Champion), Wofford (Southern Conference), Auburn (SEC and National Champion), Florida State (Atlantic Division of ACC) and Virginia Tech (ACC), to open the season. Virginia Tech and Auburn are still ranked in the AP and USA Today polls and Wofford is ranked in the top 10 in the FCS poll.

Clemson's Starts of 7-0 or Better

Year	W-L	CU Rank	Ended by
1948	11-0		No one
1981	12-0		no one
2000	8-0	5th	Georgia Tech, 28-31
2011	7-0	8th	

Boyd Sets Record

Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd has won each of his first seven starts as the Tigers quarterback. He is the first Clemson quarterback to win his first seven starts and broke the record of six in a row by Mike Eppley, who won six in the row to start his career between 1982-83. Eppley, a two-sport Clemson athlete, took over for an injured Homer Jordan in the middle of the 1982 season against Kentucky and won four starts in a row that season. He then won the opener of 1983 before losing to Boston College in the third game of the season.

Branch Has Best Game of Career

Andre Branch, a native of Richmond, VA, had a career high tying 11 tackles (11 vs. Wofford this year), and a record tying four sacks and six tackles for loss in the win at Virginia Tech.

His tackle for loss and sack totals tied for the best in Clemson history for a single game. Keith Adams had four sacks and six tackles for loss against Duke in a game at Clemson in 1999. Branch's performance is the best ever by a Clemson defensive lineman and best by a Clemson player in a road game.

For his efforts, Branch was named the National Defensive Player of the Week and the National Defensive Lineman of the Week by the College Football Performance Awards. Branch has jumped to 7th in the nation in sacks per game and is 15th in tackles for loss. He was the first ACC player with four sacks in a game this year. He now leads the ACC in sacks with eight.

Additionally, Branch was named ACC Defensive lineman of the Week, the National Defensive Player of the Week by College Sports Madness and the College Football Performance Awards.

Branch's selection as ACC Player of the Week by Rivals.com gave Clemson the overall ACC Player of the Week by the site for the third straight week. Tajh Boyd won the honor for the Auburn and Florida State games. Sammy Watkins won the award for the Maryland game.

Branch Trying to Join the Fridge

Andre Branch is Clemson's leading tackler with 46, five more than Tig Willard and Brandon Thompson. It is certainly unusual to see a defensive lineman leading the Tigers in tackles. In fact, no defensive lineman has led Clemson in tackles over a season since 1984 when middle

guard William "The Refrigerator" Perry led the Tigers with 100. Perry was a first-team All-American that season.

So far Branch has 46 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, eight of which are sacks. He had four sacks and six total tackles for loss in the win at Virginia Tech to tie the school single game record. Keith Adams had four sacks and six tackles for loss against Duke in 1999. Adams was a linebacker, so Branch's accomplishment was a record for a Clemson defensive lineman.

Clemson Tied for Second in Wins over Top 25 Teams

Clemson already has three top 25 wins in the back this year, wins over Auburn, Florida State and Virginia Tech in consecutive weeks September 17 through October 1. Clemson became the first ACC school to defeat three teams in a row who were ranked in the top 25 of both polls as the time of the game.

No Clemson team has won more than three games against top 25 teams in the same season, so Clemson has tied the record just five games into the season. The previous years Clemson defeated three top 25 teams were 1981, 1988, 1989, 2003 and 2005. Of course none of those teams accomplished the feat within the first half of the season like this Clemson team has done. It appears Clemson will have more chances to get a win over a ranked opponent as Georgia Tech and South Carolina are still on the schedule and are ranked in the top 20 of both polls this week.

With the three ranked wins Clemson is currently tied for second in the nation in that category. LSU leads with four, while Clemson and Alabama have three apiece.

Wins over Top 25 Teams in 2011

LSU (4)

9/3	#4/4	def. #3/3 Oregon	40-27
9/15	#3/3	def. #25/25 Mississippi State	19-6
9/24	#2/3	def. #16/16 West Virginia	47-21
10/8	#1/2	def. #17/18 Florida	41-11

Alabama (3)

9/10	#3/2	def. #23/20 Penn State	27-11
9/24	#3/2	def. #14/12 Arkansas	38-14
10/1	#3/2	def. #12/12 Florida	38-10

Clemson (3)

9/17	NR	def. #21/19 Auburn	38-24
9/24	#21/22	def. #11/14 Florida State	35-30
10/1	#13/15	def. #11/10 Virginia Tech	23-3

Arizona State (2)

9/9	NR/23	def. #21/19 Missouri	#37-30
9/24	NR	def. #23/NR Southern Cal	43-22

Auburn (2)

9/10	NR/22	def. #16/17 Mississippi State	41-34
10/1	NR	def. #10/9 South Carolina	16-13

Oklahoma (2)

9/17	#1/1	def. #5/5 Florida State	23-13
10/8	#3/3	def. #11/10 Texas	55-17

Arkansas (2)

10/1	#18/18	def. #14/13 Texas A&M	42-38
10/8	#10/12	def. #15 Auburn	38-14

Oklahoma State (2)

9/24	#7/6	def. #8/8 Texas A&M	30-29
10/15	#6/7	def. #22/21 Texas	38-26

Baylor

9/2	NR	def. #14/15 TCU	50-48
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Boise State

9/3	#5/7	def. #19/22 Georgia	35-21
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Georgia Tech

9/24	#25/24	def. NR/25 North Carolina	35-28
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Illinois

9/17	NR	def. #22/18 Arizona State	17-14
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Kansas State	10/1	NR	def. #15/16 Baylor	36-35
Miami (FL)	9/17	NR	def. #17/16 Ohio State	24-6
Notre Dame	9/17	NR	def. #15/15 Michigan State	31-13
Michigan State	10/15	#23/19	def. #11/10 Michigan	28-14
Pittsburgh	10/1	NR	def. #16/14 South Florida	44-17
Oregon	10/15	#9/9	def #18/20 Arizona State	41-27
Ohio State	10/15	NR	def. #15/15 Illinois	17-7
SMU	10/1	NR	def. #20/20 TCU	#40-33
Texas A&M	10/15	#21/23	def. #20/24 Baylor	55-28
Virginia	10/15	NR	def #12/12 Georgia Tech	24-21
South Florida	9/3	NR	def. #16/18 Notre Dame	23-20
Wake Forest	10/8	NR	Def. #23/#22 Florida State	35-30
Wisconsin	10/1	#7/7	def. #8/8 Nebraska	48-17
#Overtime				

Willard Coming on Strong

Clemson linebacker Jonathan "Tig" Willard had arguably his best game with the program in the Tigers victory over Virginia Tech on October 1. He had nine tackles from his linebacker position, the high total of his career. Seven of the nine tackles were first hits and he had a lot to do with Virginia Tech's failure to score a touchdown in a home game for the third time since 1995.

For his performance, Willard was named ACC Linebacker of the Week. That was a first for his career and in fact the first Clemson linebacker to earn ACC Player of the Week honor since September 8, 2009 when Brandon Maye was named ACC Player of the Week in a victory over Middle Tennessee.

Willard is now second on the team in tackles with 41, 27 first hits and 14 assists.

Branch, Steele Honored by Rivals.com

Second Time a Clemson Coordinator Has Been Honored

Clemson defensive end Andre Branch and defensive coordinator Kevin Steele were honored by Rivals.com on October 2. Branch was named the ACC Player of the Week by the national website and Steele was named the National Coordinator of the Week. It is the second time this year a Clemson coordinator was honored. Offensive coordinator Chad Morris won the honor when Clemson defeated Auburn earlier this year.

Steele's defense held Virginia Tech to three points, the first time since 1995 the Hokies did not score a touchdown at home. Virginia Tech also had just 4.6 yards per pass attempt, 258 yards of total offense and converted just 4-16 on third downs. The Clemson defense did a good job of not giving up big plays as the Hokies longest play was just 19 yards.

Clemson's defense had four sacks for 31 yards in the game and all four sacks were credited to Branch, who finished with 11 total tackles, tying his career high. He also was credited with six total tackles for loss, tying a Clemson record. The four sacks also tied a Clemson single game record.

Walker Makes 42nd Start

Clemson offensive tackle Landon Walker made his seventh start of the 2011 season and his 42nd career start against Maryland last week. The native of North Wilkesboro, NC who is the son of a former Clemson

football player (Gary Walker), has started 32 games in a row over three years.

Walker has started all five games in 2011, all 13 in 2010, 12 of 14 in 2009 and 10 of 12 in 2008 as a freshman. He went over the 100 knock-down block mark in the win over Florida State. He has done that against outstanding competition over his career as he has had to face Derrick Morgan of Georgia Tech, Ndamukong Suh of Nebraska, Jerry Hughes of TCU, and former Clemson teammate Da'Quan Bowers in practice.

Clemson Named National Team of the Week by Football Writers Association

Clemson was named the National Team of the Week of College Football for its 35-30 win over 11th ranked Florida State on September 24. It is just the second time Clemson has been the recipient of the award from the Football Writers Association of America that dates to 2002.

Clemson downed the Seminoles to give the Tigers a second win over a top 20 team in eight days, just the fourth time the program had wins over ranked teams in consecutive weeks. On September 17 Clemson defeated 19th ranked and defending National Champion Auburn.

Clemson gained 443 yards and scored 35 points against Florida State, who entered the game fifth in the nation in total defense, allowing just 195 yards per game. The Seminoles had also allowed just 11 points per game entering the contest.

Tajh Boyd completed 22-35 passes for 344 yards and added 19 rushing for 363 yards of total offense. His favorite target was freshman receiver Sammy Watkins, who had seven catches for 141 yards and two scores. Defensive tackle Rennie Moore had a sack on Florida State's final offensive play to preserve the victory, Clemson's fifth in a row over the Seminoles in Death Valley. Clemson held Florida State to just 29 yards rushing.

Clemson last won the award from the FWA in 2003 after a 26-10 victory over a third-ranked Florida State team. That is still the highest ranked team Clemson has defeated in its history.

Ranked Wins on the Road

Clemson has 63 wins over Associated Press top 25 teams over the years and 20 of them have taken place on an opponent's home field. The 20th took place on October 1 when the Tigers defeated Virginia Tech 23-3. The 20-point margin was the largest margin of victory for the Tigers in a row game over a ranked opponent. The previous record was a 11-point win at North Carolina in 1994 and an 11-point win at Florida State in 1989.

Clemson Ranked road wins (20)

Date	Score	Opp Rk	Opponent
11-13-48	21-14	19	Wake Forest
10-28-50	13-12	17	Wake Forest
1-1-51	15-14	15	Miami (FL)
9-19-59	20-18	12	North Carolina
9-17-77	7-6	17	Georgia
11-18-78	28-24	11	Maryland
11-8-81	10-8	8	North Carolina
11-13-82	24-22	18	Maryland
11-5-83	16-3	10	North Carolina
9-20-86	31-28	14	Georgia
9-9-89	34-23	16	Florida State
10-10-92	29-28	10	Virginia
11-5-94	28-17	19	North Carolina
11-8-96	24-16	15	Virginia
9-13-97	19-17	25	NC State
9-29-01	47-44	9	Georgia Tech
11-19-05	13-9	19	South Carolina
9-16-06	27-20	9	Florida State
10-24-09	40-37 (OT)	8	Miami (FL)
10-1-11	23-3	10	Virginia Tech

Note games on opponent home field, neutral site games not included.

Boyd Joins Whitehurst with Consecutive 300-yard Passing Games

Tajh Boyd threw for 386 yards in the victory over 19th ranked Auburn on September 17, then threw for 344 in the victory over 11th ranked Florida State the very next week. He joined Charlie Whitehurst (now of the Seattle Seahawks) as the only quarterbacks in Clemson history to throw for at least 300 yards in consecutive games. Whitehurst did it in the final two regular season games of 2003, at home against Duke and at South Carolina.

A look to the list below shows that Boyd did more than just break the 300-yard mark, he has had two of the top four yardage games in Clemson history. Not bad for your third and fourth career starts.

Boyd has already set four records this year. He threw for at

least three touchdowns in each of the his four starts, the record for consecutive games throwing at least three TD passes, and he established the school record for passing yards over a two game (730), three-game (995) and four-game (1255) stretch. He has 19 touchdown passes for the year, an average of 2.7 per ame.

Most Passing yards in a Single Game

Year	Player	Opponent	Com-Att	Yards
2002	Charlie Whitehurst	at Duke	34-52	420
2011	Tajh Boyd	Auburn	30-42	386
2007	Cullen Harper	Virginia Tech	38-66	372
2011	Tajh Boyd	Florida State	22-35	344
1999	Brandon Streeter	Virginia	24-32	343
2006	Will Proctor	at Boston College	25-40	343
2001	Woody Dantzler	at NC State	23-27	333
2003	Charlie Whitehurst	Duke	27-40	331
1998	Brandon Streeter	NC State	27-38	329

Watkins, Morris and Boyd honored by Rivals.com Second Straight Week for Watkins and Boyd

Clemson wide receiver Sammy Watkins and offensive coordinator Chad Morris were honored by Rivals.com as National Freshman and offensive coordinators of the week, respectively for the Auburn game. Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd was honored as the website's ACC Player of the Week. It is the second consecutive week Watkins was named the national Freshman of the Week and the second straight week Boyd was named the overall ACC Player of the Week.

Watkins had seven receptions for 141 yards and two touchdowns in the win over 11th ranked Florida State. It gave him 17 receptions for 296 yards over the last two weeks against ranked opponents. He had 175 all-purpose running yards against Florida State.

Morris coached Clemson to 35 points and 443 yards against the nation's fifth-ranked defense in Florida State. The Seminoles came into the game allowing just 195 yards per game. The Tigers converted 9-17 on third down as well and scored five touchdowns. He has the Tigers ranked 13th in the nation in total offense, 16th in passing and 23rd in scoring.

Boyd completed 22 of 35 passes for 344 yards and three scores in the win over Florida State. He threw for three scores and ran for one as he led the Tigers to at least 35 points for the fourth straight game. Boyd is now 12th in the nation in passing efficiency and 10th in total offense.

Watkins Added to Biletnikoff Watch List

Clemson freshman receiver Sammy Watkins was one of 19 new players added to the Biletnikoff Award Watch list on September 23.

Watkins is a true freshman from Fort Myers, FL who leads Clemson in receiving with 38 receptions for 623 yards in six touchdowns. He leads Clemson in all three areas and has already set the Clemson freshman record for reception touchdowns for a season.

Watkins needs just 62 yards to break the Clemson receiving yardage record for a freshman. Derrick Hamilton had 684 in 2001.

Watkins had 10 receptions for 155 yards and two scores in the win over Auburn, then had seven for 141 and two scores in the win over Florida State. The 10 catches for 155 yards set a freshman record for reception yards and the 10 catches were also a freshman mark. He gained 199 yards from scrimmage in the win over Auburn named the National Freshman of the Week by Rivals.com, the ACC Receiver of the Week and the ACC Rookie of the Week. He was named National Freshman of the Week by Rivals.com for the Florida State game as well.

Allen, Boyd and Watkins Gain National Acclaim in Win over Auburn

Dwayne Allen, Tajh Boyd and Sammy Watkins all gained national acclaim for Clemson's victory over Auburn on September 17. Clemson defeated the defending national champions 38-24 at Death Valley to end the nation's longest winning streak at 17 games.

Allen was named the John Mackey Award Tight End of the Week for his performance in the victory as he had seven receptions for a career high 80 yards and a touchdown. Boyd won the Manning Award Quarterback of the Week after he completed 30-42 passes for 386 yards and four scores. The yardage total was the second most in Clemson history. He also had 30 yards rushing, giving him 416 yards of total offense.

Watkins was named National Freshman of the Week by Rivals.com for his performance as he had 10 receptions for 155 yards and two scores, including a 65-yarder early in the third period that gave Clemson the lead.

80 Snaps is the Goal for Morris Offense

Eighty snaps is the goal for the Clemson offense under offensive coordinator Chad Morris. He achieved that goal in Clemson wins

over Auburn and Florida State in consecutive weeks.

The Tigers ran 92 plays to Auburn's 63 in Clemson's 38-24 victory, then ran 85 to Florida State's 53 in Clemson 35-30 win on September 24. That is 177 plays over consecutive games, an average of 88.5 plays per game in back to back weeks. That is the most plays run by the Clemson offense in back to back weeks since 2007 when Clemson had 90 snaps against Virginia Tech and 88 against Central Michigan in consecutive games for 178 total.

Clemson has averaged 77.4 plays per game so far this year. That is close to a record pace for the program. The record is 78.8 by the 1978 team that finished the season sixth in the final AP poll with an 11-1 record.

Tigers Looking for First 5-0 ACC Start since 2000

Clemson is looking for its first 5-0 start in the ACC since the 2000 season when the Tigers opened the league schedule with a 5-0 record on the way to a 8-0 overall start. Clemson can match both with a victory over North Carolina.

Watkins Honored by ACC Three Weeks in a Row

Clemson receiver Sammy Watkins was honored by the ACC three of the first four weeks of the season. The native of Fort Myers, FL was named ACC Rookie of the Week for his performance against Wofford and Auburn, and ACC Receiver of the Week for his performances against Auburn and Florida State. Obviously he was honored twice for his 199 yards from scrimmage against Auburn as he won both the Receiver of the Week and Rookie of the Week awards.

He won both awards again when Clemson defeated Maryland when he had a Clemson record 345 all-purpose yards.

Quarterback Tajh Boyd was named ACC Back of the Week for the second straight week, in wins over Auburn and Florida State, a pair of ranked opponents. **Boyd joins former All-American C.J. Spiller (2009) and former quarterback Woody Dantzler (2001) as the only Clemson players to win ACC offensive back of the week honors for performances in consecutive games.**

Clemson ACC Players of the Week

Wofford: Sammy Watkins (Rookie)
Auburn: Tajh Boyd (Back), Sammy Watkins (Receiver, Rookie)
Florida State: Tajh Boyd (Back), Sammy Watkins (Receiver)
Virginia Tech: Andre Branch (Defensive Line), Tig Willard (LB)
Boston College: Watkins (Rookie), Chandler Catanzaro (Specialist)
Maryland: Watkins (Receiver and Rookie), Andre Ellington (Back)

Other Honors

Auburn

- Dwayne Allen, John Mackey Award, National Tight end of the Week
- Sammy Watkins, Rivals National Freshman of the Week
- Tajh Boyd, Manning National Quarterback of the Week
- Tajh Boyd, Rivals ACC Player of the Week
- Tajh Boyd, HM Quarterback of the Week by Davey O'Brien Award

Florida State

- Sammy Watkins, Rivals National Freshman of the Week
- Tajh Boyd, HM Quarterback of the Week by Davey O'Brien Award
- Tajh Boyd, Rivals ACC Player of the Week
- Tajh Boyd, Manning National Quarterback of the Week
- Team—National Team of the Week by FWAA

Virginia Tech

- Andre Branch, Rivals National Defense Player of the Week
- Kevin Steele, Rivals National Defensive Coordinator of the Week
- Andre Branch, Rivals ACC Player of the Week
- Andre Branch, ACC Defensive Lineman of the Week
- Tig Willard, ACC Linebacker of the Week
- Dwayne Allen, Tight end of the Week by College Performance Awards

Boston College

- Chandler Catanzaro, National Kicker of the Week by College Performance Awards.
- *Chandler Catanzaro, Lou Groza Award Kicker of the Week
- Sammy Watkins, ACC Rookie of the Week
- Chandler Catanzaro, ACC Special Teams Player of the Week

Maryland

- Sammy Watkins, Rivals National Player of the Week, ACC Player of the Week, National Freshman of the Week
- Tajh Boyd, HM Quarterback of the Week by Davey O'Brien Award

Clemson Offense on Record Pace

Clemson's offense is on a record pace in a number of areas so far this year. In three of the seven games this year the Tigers have had at least 200 yards rushing and 200 yards passing, including the win over Maryland when the Tigers had 306 yards rushing and 270 passing.

That is a good sign when Clemson does that because the Tigers are 56-0-1 when getting at least 200 yards or each in the same game in history. Clemson has had three 500-yard games and is 56-0-1 when gaining 500 yards or more in school history. **Yes, the same record.**

Against Auburn, Clemson had its second highest passing yardage total in a single game (386), its third largest total offense figure (624), and its fourth most first downs (32). Additionally, Clemson converted 14-18 third-down situations, including 10 in a row at one point. It was the most third down conversions in a game for the Clemson offense since 1986. It was the most total offense Clemson has had against an SEC in its history by 100 yards.

Through seven games the Tigers are at a record rate or close to a record rate in a number of offensive categories:

Clemson Offense in 2011

Category	2011	School Record
Points/Game	38.0	34.7 (2000)
Touchdowns/Game	4.71	4.8 (1950)
Yards/Play	6.3	6.50 (2006)
Yards/Game	487.1	436.8 (2000)
Passing Yards/Game	293.7	283.6 (2003)
Completion %	.623	.658 (2005)
Pass Efficiency	156.3	148.0 (1950)
Touchdown Passes/G	2.71	2.31 (2007)
Third Down Conversion %	.491	.516 (1978)

Converting on Third Down

Clemson converted on third down 14 of 18 times in the win over Auburn. That tied for the second most third-down conversions on record in Clemson history and the .778 percentage is second best for a complete game. From the last third-down attempt of the first period to the last attempt of the third period, Clemson was 10-10 on third down. That was the second longest streak in a game in Clemson history. The Tigers were 12-12 on third down for the entire game against Wake Forest in 1981.

The record for most third down conversions in a game in school history is 15. Clemson was 15-22 on third down against Western Carolina in 1983. Clemson converted 9-17 in the win over Florida State and is now at 49 percent for the year.

Most Third Down Conversions in a Game

Year	Opponent	3Down
1983	Western Carolina	15-22
2011	Auburn	14-18
1978	Virginia Tech	14-20
1978	Wake Forest	14-20
1980	at Georgia	14-26
1986	Georgia Tech	14-21

Best Third Down Conversion Percentage

Year	Opponent	3-Down	Pct
1981	Wake Forest	12-12	1.000
2011	Auburn	14-18	.778
1984	at Georgia Tech	10-14	.714
1978	Virginia Tech	14-20	.700
1978	Wake Forest	14-20	.700
2001	Wofford	9-13	.692
1983	Western Carolina	15-22	.682

Note: Minimum of 10 attempts

Boyd Throws for 386 Yards

Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd is off to a record breaking pace in his own right as he has completed 145 -232 passes for 2012 yards and 19 touchdowns. He has thrown just three interceptions and has averaged 287 yards per game, best in the ACC. His passing efficiency rating is 159.8, third best in the ACC and 13th best in the nation, and he is 13th in the country in total offense with 309.9 yards per game. His 19 touchdown passes rank tied for fifth in the nation.

Boyd is on a Clemson record pace in all of those categories entering the North Carolina game because of his performance in Clemson's win over Auburn. In that game Boyd was 30-42 for 386 yards and four scores. He did not throw an interception.

The passing yardage total was second best in Clemson history and topped only by the 420 passing yards Charlie Whitehurst had against Duke in 2002. That was Whitehurst's first career start, so the top two passing yardage totals in Clemson history have been recorded by quarterbacks within the first three starts of their respective careers.

Boyd had 30 yards rushing against Auburn, giving him 416 yards of total offense, the fourth best single game total in school history. His 30 completions rank fourth best as well. The passing yardage total was the best ever for a Clemson quarterback in Clemson Memorial Stadium.

Three Wins Without Leading at Half

Clemson won each of its first three games this season without leading at the half. Clemson trailed against Troy in the season opener at intermission, 16-13, before winning 43-19. Clemson and Wofford were tied at the half at 21-21 before Clemson won 35-27. Then, against Auburn, the Tigers were tied 21-21 at intermission before winning 38-24.

This was the first time Clemson has won three straight games without leading at the half since 2004. That year at midseason, Clemson trailed Maryland 7-3 at intermission before winning 10-7. Clemson and NC State were tied at 10 at intermission before the Tigers won 26-20. The following week Clemson trailed Miami in the Orange Bowl 17-3 before winning in overtime 24-17.

Clemson overcame a 14-point deficit to beat Auburn. It tied for the fourth best comeback in Clemson history. Then Clemson overcame a 18 point deficit in the second half to beat Maryland in College Park on October 15, the second best comeback in Clemson history.

Summary of Clemson's Offensive Numbers vs. Auburn

*Gained 624 yards of total offense, third most in Clemson history. It was the most yards by a Clemson team against an SEC team in history. The previous record was 524 by the Tigers against Auburn in 1951. That was the last time Clemson had beaten Auburn prior to last Saturday.

- Had 32 first downs, fourth most in Clemson history.
- Had 238 yards rushing and 386 passing, just the sixth game in Clemson history the Tigers have had at least 300 yards passing and 200 yards rushing in the same game.
- Clemson improved to 55-0-1 when gaining at least 200 yards rushing and 200 yards passing in the same game.
- Converted 14-18 third down situations, tied for the second most third down conversions in a game in Clemson history and the second best percentage (.778) in school history. Clemson converted 10 straight third downs at one point in the game.
- Clemson ran 92 plays, tied for the fifth most plays in Clemson history.
- Clemson finished the game with an 18-play drive that took 9:34 off the clock. It tied for the third longest drive in Clemson history in terms of clock time and tied for the sixth longest in terms of plays.

Howard Comes Off the Bench

Clemson's leading rusher in the win over Auburn was Alabama native D.J. Howard. The red-shirt freshman played 30 snaps, all in the second half, after starter Andre Ellington suffered a pulled hamstring.

After not getting a carry in the first half, Howard got nine and gained 86 yards in the second half for a 9.6 average. He was a big reason Clemson controlled the ball for 12:29 of the fourth quarter. In the fourth period he had 59 yards in five carries.

Howard suffered a hamstring injury in practice prior to the Florida State game and missed the FSU and Virginia Tech games.

Brandon Thomas and Brandon Thompson

If you are covering the Tigers for the first time this year, don't get your Brandon's confused. There is Clemson defensive tackle Brandon Thompson and there is Clemson offensive guard Brandon Thomas. Both played a big role in Clemson's win over Auburn.

Thompson, in his third year as a starter, had six tackles, including a tackle for loss in 60 plays against Auburn. Thomas, did not start last week, but played 89 of the 94 offensive snaps as a guard. The final 89 of the game in fact. Thompson is tie for second on the Clemson team in tackles this year with 41

Thomas replaced Mason Cloy who was injured in the Auburn game. Cloy was replacing David Smith, who had shoulder surgery the Tuesday prior to the game. Thomas played 136 plays all of last year as a freshman, then played 89 against the defending National Champion. He has started every game since

Clemson Downs Defending National Champion...again

Clemson is now 3-0 against the defending National Champion in Memorial Stadium. The Tigers first defeated the defending champion in 1981 when the Tigers downed Georgia and Herschel Walker 13-3. They had won the title the previous year. Clemson defeated Georgia Tech in 1991, 9-7 at Death Valley, one year after the Yellow Jackets had won the UPI National Championship. And, on September 17, Clemson defeated Auburn by a 38-24 score, just three games removed from Auburn's 2010 National Championship.

In all three cases, Clemson gained the victory in the third game of the season against a team that had beaten the Tigers in a close game the year before.

Stopping Streaks

Clemson ended Auburn's 17-game winning streak on September 17 with a 38-24 victory. Clemson overcame a 14-point deficit in the first half, the first time Clemson had done that to gain victory since the 2006 Wake Forest game. That was the longest streak Clemson has snapped in school history. The previous record was a 15-game winning streak by Georgia in 1981.

Longest Winning Streaks Stopped by Clemson

Year	Opponent	Site	Cu-Opp	Streak
2011	Auburn	H	38-24	17
1981	Georgia	H	13-3	15
1950	#Miami (FL)	N1	15-14	10
1981	Nebraska	N1	22-15	8
1923	Furman	A	7-6	8
1939	Boston College	N2	6-3	7
1959	TCU	N3	23-7	7
2003	Tennessee	N4	27-14	6
1989	NC State	H	30-10	6
1991	NC State	H	29-19	6

#Unbeaten Streak

N1—Orange Bowl, Miami, FL; N2—Cotton Bowl, Dallas, TX; N3 Bluebonnet Bowl, Houston, TX; N4—Chick-fil-A Bowl, Atlanta, GA

Clemson Offensive Stats Similar to Tulsa So Far

Chad Morris came to Clemson with lofty numbers recorded at Tulsa last year. Tulsa was the only team in the nation to rank in the top 15 in rushing offense and passing offense in 2010 and averaged 505 yards and 41 points per game.

We are only seven games in, but Clemson has recorded similar numbers this year. Clemson is averaging 193 rushing yards and 294 passing yards per game. Clemson's team passing efficiency is 159.8 and the Tigers have averaged 6.3 yards per play, near the 6.53 recorded by Tulsa last year and near the Clemson record for the course of a season (6.50 in 2006). Clemson had 624 yards of total offense against Auburn third most in school history.

Comparison of Offensive Production

Category	Clemson	Tulsa
Year	2011	2010
Rushing/Game	193.4	216.9
Passing/Game	293.7	288.7
Total Offense/G	487.1	505.6
Plays/Game	77.4	77.4
Points Per Game	38.0	41.4
Pass Efficiency	159.8	144.7
Yards/Play	6.3	6.53
Touchdowns/Game	4.7	4.9
Yds/Rush	4.5	5.25
Yds/Pass	8.67	8.00

Freshmen Had impact on win over Troy

Clemson got a lot of production from its freshman class in the season opening victory against Troy. Here are some notes on the freshmen from the opener.

•Clemson played 70 players against Troy and 24 of them were freshmen, 12 true freshmen and 12 red-shirt freshmen. The 12 true freshmen were the most in one game in school history. (Clemson has since played another for 13 on the season).

•The 12 true freshmen that played were Martavis Bryant, Sammy Watkins, Mike Bellamy, Tony Steward, Cole Stoudt, Stephone Anthony, Charone Peake, Robert Smith, Grady Jarrett, Corey Crawford, DeShawn Williams and Adam Humphries.

*The impact of the freshmen began on the first drive when Sammy Watkins caught a 33-yard touchdown pass from Tajh Boyd on

Clemson's second play of the game. Watkins scored with 14:34 left in the first quarter, meaning he had scored just 26 seconds into his career. That is the earliest a freshman has scored into his career in school history. The previous record took place when Terry Allen scored at the 8:53 mark (6:07 into the game) of the first period against Western Carolina in 1987.

•Watkins went on to catch seven passes for 81 yards, the most receptions and most reception yards for a Clemson player in his first game in school history. Terrance Roulhac (1983) and Roscoe Crosby (2001), both had 64 receiving yards in their first game, respectively. Aaron Kelly had four catches in his first game in 2005 for the reception mark.

•In the second half freshman Mike Bellamy raced 75 yards for a touchdown on his first career rush. That was the longest run by a Clemson player in his first run from scrimmage. The previous record was a 72-yard run by Craig Crawford against Wake Forest in 1981.

•Martavis Bryant had a 54-yard reception on his first career reception in the fourth period as well. Clemson true freshmen had 291 all-purpose running yards for the day.

•On defense, true freshman Stephone Anthony had a sack and a pass deflection, while Robert Smith had an interception.

•Freshman Sammy Watkins had 81 yards receiving and classmate Mike Bellamy had 81 yards rushing against Troy in each player's first career game. That is a good number for a school that won the national championship in 1981.

•Freshmen scored three touchdowns in the game, as Watkins scored on a 33-yard reception, Bellamy on a 75-yard run and D.J. Howard on a one-yard run. It was the first time freshmen scored three times in the same game since the 2006 South Carolina game when C.J. Spiller scored on an 80-yard run and a 31-yard run and Jacoby Ford scored on a 76-yard touchdown pass. The record is four touchdowns by freshmen against Appalachian State in 1990. That day Ronald Williams (father of Clemson defensive tackle DeShawn Williams) scored three and Derrick Wither- spoon scored one.

•Bellamy's 139 all-purpose yards were the most by a Clemson true freshman in his first game since 2006 when Ford had 148 against Florida Atlantic.

•Clemson has now played 29 freshmen this year, 13 first-year and 16 red-shirt. That means 29 of the 79 players who have appeared in a game this year are freshmen. That is 36.7 percent.

Tigers on NFL Rosters

Clemson had 24 former players on NFL rosters as of Labor Day (Sept. 10). The list includes seven members of the 2010 Clemson team who are rookies this year.

The first-year NFL players from Clemson include Da'Quan Bowers with Tampa Bay, Marcus Gilchrist with San Diego, Chris Hairston with Buffalo, Jamie Harper with Tennessee, Byron Maxwell with Seattle and Jarvis Jenkins with Washington. Jenkins suffered a torn ACL in a preseason game and is out for the year.

The veteran of the group is Brian Dawkins, a senior at Clemson in 1995 who is playing in his 17th year. Trevor Pryce, who has been in the NFL since 1997, is a free agent and has not signed with a team yet.

A total of 11 players from the 2009 Clemson team that won the Atlantic Division of the ACC are on NFL rosters.

Clemson Players in the NFL

(As of September 16, 2011)

No	Name	Pos	Team
67	Thomas Austin	OG	Houston Texans
91	Da'Quan Bowers	DE	Tampa Bay Bucs
22	Crezdon Butler	CB	Arizona Cardinals
	&Miguel Chavis	FB	Oakland Raiders
30	Chris Clemons	S	Miami Dolphins
53	Kavell Connor	LB	Indianapolis Colts
73	#Jamie Cumbie	DT	Oakland Raiders
	#James Davis	RB	Houston Texans
20	Brian Dawkins	S	Denver Broncos
98	Nick Easton	DT	Arizona Cardinals
12	Jacoby Ford	WR	Oakland Raiders
38	Marcus Gilchrist	CB	San Diego Chargers
19	#Tyler Grisham	WR	Pittsburgh Steelers
75	Chris Hairston	OT	Buffalo Bills
23	Jamie Harper	RB	Tennessee Titans
56	LeRoy Hill	LB	Seattle Seahawks
99	&Jarvis Jenkins	DT	Washington Redskins
41	Byron Maxwell	DE	Seattle Seahawks
97	Philip Merling	DE	Miami Dolphins
81	Michael Palmer	TE	Atlanta Falcons
67	Barry Richardson	OT	Kansas City Chiefs

97	Dorell Scott	DT	St. Louis Rams
28	C.J. Spiller	RB	Buffalo Bills
17	Chansi Stuckey	WR	Arizona Cardinals
6	Charlie Whitehurst	QB	Seattle Seahawks

#Practice Squad, & Injured reserve

Humphries makes Start as True Freshman

True freshman Adam Humphries started at wide receiver against Troy, just the 14th first-year freshman to start the first game of the season. Sammy Watkins, also a first-year freshman was suppose to start, but Watkins was on the field for the opening kickoff and he came on the field for the second play. Watkins then caught a 33-yard scoring pass.

Below is a list of first-year freshmen to start the season opener since freshman became eligible in 1972.

First-Year Freshman to Start Season Opener

Year	Player	Position
1973	Ken Callicutt	RB
	Nelson Wallace	DT
1974	Jeff Mills	DT
1980	Jeff Wells	TE
	James Farr	C
1987	John Johnson	DE
1988	Chris Gardocki	PK
1994	Anthony Downs	RB
1995	Anthony Simmons	LB
2001	Roscoe Crosby	WR
2005	James Davis	RB
2006	C.J. Spiller	RB
2008	Jamie Harper	RB
2011	Adam Humphries	WR

Odd but True

It is an odd numbered season so all Clemson fans should be excited. Since 1977 odd numbered seasons have been seasons of success, if not landmark years at Clemson.

That 1977 season saw Clemson go to a bowl game for the first time in 18 years under first-year head coach Charley Pell. The Tigers finished with a number-19 ranking, also the first top 20 ranking for the program since 1959.

Of course 1981 was the ultimate in football accomplishment for the Clemson program, a 12-0 record and the National Championship under third year (another odd number) head coach Danny Ford who was 33-years-old (there it is again) at the time. The Tigers beat Nebraska in the National Championship and Clemson will celebrate the 30th anniversary of that season later this year.

The 1991 season ended in an ACC title for the Tigers thanks to a 6-0-1 mark in the league and a 9-2-1 overall record. The team finished 17th in the nation. This year is the 20-year anniversary of that accomplishment.

Seven times since 1977 Clemson has been unranked in the preseason poll in an odd numbered year, but finished the year in the top 25. But just once since 1977 (the 1986 season) has Clemson been unranked in the preseason poll of an even numbered year, then finished in the top 25.

The trend of odd seasons of success has continued in this decade. In fact it has been a remarkable pattern. Since 2002, each of the odd numbered years Clemson has finished the season ranked in the top 25 of all polls even though it has not been ranked in the preseason. In the even numbered seasons since 2002, Clemson has failed to obtain a top 25 ranking at season's end even though it has been ranked in the preseason three times.

In each of the last four odd numbered seasons (2003, 2005, 2007, 2009) Clemson has won at least .643 of its games. In each of the even numbered seasons since 2002, Clemson has won at least 60 percent of the time just once, and that was in 2006 when the Tigers finished with an 8-5 record after a 7-1 start.

Lets look at the last four odd numbered seasons. The 2003 Tigers behind sophomore quarterback Charlie Whitehurst ran off a 9-4 record and finished with a number-22 national ranking after a 4-0 run to end the season that included a 63-17 victory over South Carolina, and wins over third ranked Florida State (the highest ranked team Clemson has defeated in its history) and sixth ranked Tennessee (the highest ranked team Clemson has beaten in a bowl game over the last 29 years).

The 2005 season included a 21-point victory over eventual ACC Champion Florida State, a fourth straight win over South Carolina under Whitehurst's direction and a bowl victory over Colorado. The 2007 season saw the Tigers record a 9-3 regular season record, including a 24-18

Labor Day night victory over 19th-ranked Florida State, the program's fifth straight win over a top 25 team under Tommy Bowden's direction.

And of course the 2009 season was the season of C.J. Spiller when the Tigers won the Atlantic Division of the ACC under Head Coach Dabo Swinney. Spiller was unanimous All-American and finished sixth in the voting for the Heisman Trophy, tied for the highest finish by a Clemson player. The Tigers defeated Florida State and Miami (FL) in the same season for the first time, and defeated Kentucky in the Music City Bowl.

A look to the chart below shows that Clemson has won 70.3 percent of its games in odd numbered years since 1977, but just 61.9 percent in even numbered years. Clemson has been to a bowl game 16 of the last 17 odd numbered years, but just nine bowl games in the last 17 even numbered years. Clemson has just four losing seasons in the last 34 years and all four have come in even numbered years. And the Tigers have had 11 top 25 seasons in the last 17 odd numbered years, but just six in even numbered years since 1977. Clemson has had just one top 25 final ranking (2000) in an even numbered year since 1992.

Additionally, Clemson has won at least nine games in three of the last four odd numbered years, but has just one season with at least nine wins in an even numbered year since 1990.

Clemson Football Since 1977

Categories	Odd	Even
Years	17	17
Record	144-60-3	121-74-3
Pct.	.703	.619
ACC Record	85-37-2	76-49-1
Pct	.694	.607
Bowls	16	9
Top 25 Seasons	11	6
Winning Seasons	15	13
Losing Seasons	0	4
Nine-Win Seasons	9	5
Top 3 in ACC	14	9

Note: 2011 season not included in above chart

Four Sons of Former Tigers on 2011 Team

Four sons of former Clemson football players are on the 2011 Tigers team. Starting offensive tackle Landon Walker is the son of Gary Walker, who was a letterman on Clemson's 1981 National Championship team. The same goes for freshman Shaq Anthony, a first-year freshman whose dad, Vernie Anthony also lettered on the National Championship team.

Freshman defensive lineman DeShawn Williams is the son of running back Ronald Williams, who was the leading rusher on Clemson's 1990 team as a first year freshman with 941 yards, still the Clemson record for a first-year freshman. Williams played for the Tigers from 1990-92.

Walk-on Taylor Watson is the son of Ronald Watson, who was a freshman on that Clemson 1981 team.

Six Tigers on Preseason Awards Lists

Clemson has six current players on a combined 11 preseason Watch Lists for the 2011 season. The list includes two players, Dalton Freeman and Andre Ellington, who are on three lists apiece.

Freeman is a candidate for the Rimington Award, which goes to the top center in college football, the Outland Trophy, which goes to the top interior lineman, and the Lombardi Award, which goes to the top lineman. Freeman has been a starter at center each of the last two years, including 2009 when he became the first Clemson freshman since 1943 to start over the course of the season.

Ellington is a candidate for the Maxwell National Player of the Year Award, the Doak Walker Award, which goes to the top running back, and the Paul Hornung Award, which goes to the top all-purpose player. Ellington scored 12 touchdowns in the first seven games of the 2010 season before he suffered a toe injury. He was 10th in the nation in scoring and 30th in rushing at the time of the injury. His 6.33 yards per rush average for his career is best in Clemson history.

Dawson Zimmerman was a semifinalist for the Ray Guy Award as the nation's top punter last year, the only ACC player on that list, and he is again a candidate for that award this year. He is also among 30 players who are candidates for the Lowe's Senior Class award, which goes to the top senior student-athlete football player in the nation. He has made the Dean's list multiple times in his Clemson career.

Andre Branch, who is Clemson's leading returnee in terms of quarterback sacks, is a candidate for the Hendricks Award as the nation's top defensive end, while Dwayne Allen is up for the Mackey Award as the nation's top tight end. He was a second-team All-ACC selection last year.

Finally, DeAndre Hopkins is a candidate for the Fred Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top wide receiver. He had 52 catches to lead the Tigers last year and had three receiving games of at least 100 yards in the last four contests last year.

Sammy Watkins was added to the Biletnikoff Watch List three games into this season after catching 10 passes for 155 yards against Auburn.

Clemson Players on 2011 Preseason Watch Lists

Name	Award	Name of Award
Dwayne Allen	Tight End	Mackey Award
Andre Branch	Defensive End	Hendricks Award
Dalton Freeman	Center	Rimington Award
	Top Interior Lineman	Outland Trophy
	Top Lineman	Lombardi Award
DeAndre Hopkins	Wide Receiver	Biletnikoff Award
Andre Ellington	Player of the Year	Maxwell Trophy
	Running Back	Walker Award
	All-purpose player	Hornung Award
Sammy Watkins	Wide Receiver	Biletnikoff Award
Dawson Zimmerman	Punter	Guy Award
	Academic/Athletic	Lowe's Senior Class

Clemson Has Young Team

Clemson has a young squad this year with 42 freshmen (red-shirt or first year) among the 85 players on scholarship. The record for most freshmen lettermen in a season is 23, set in 1985 when Danny Ford lettered 10 first-year freshmen and 13 red-shirt freshmen. The second most is 21 in 2006. That was C.J. Spiller's freshman year.

Clemson's first-year freshman class has 27 players this year, four who entered in January and 23 who entered this summer. The record for first-year freshmen to letter in a season is 10 by the 1985 freshmen and by the 1994 freshmen.

Clemson played 24 freshmen in the win over Troy to open the season, 12 true freshmen and 12 red-shirt. Now the number is up to 29, 13 true freshmen and 16 red-shirt freshmen.

Most Freshmen Lettermen in a Season

(Since 1972 when Freshmen Eligibility re-established)

Year	W-L	FY	RS	TOT
1985	6-6	10	13	23
2006	8-5	8	13	21
2008	7-6	8	12	20
2000	9-3	3	17	20
2003	9-4	5	14	19
1994	5-6	10	8	18
1992	5-6	9	9	18

First-Year Freshman Participants Since 1999

1999 (5) David Ellis (LB), Rodney Feaster (LB), Brian Mance (CB), Bernard Rambert (TB), Rodney Thomas (LB)

2000 (4) Aaron Hunt (PK), Yusef Kelly (RB), John Leake (LB), Ronnie Thomas (WR)

2001 (9) Eric Coleman (DT), Roscoe Crosby (WR), Airese Currie (WR), Maurice Fountain (DE), Ben Hall (TE), Leroy Hill (LB), Tavaghn Monts (DB), Travis Pugh (FS), Eric Sampson (LB)

2002 (1) Justin Miller (CB)

2003 (5) Tramaine Billie (LB), Jad Dean (PK), Marion Dukes (OT), Sergio Gilliam (CB), Brandon Pilgrim (OG)

2004 (2) La'Donte Harris (WR), Barry Richardson (OT)

2005 (8) Antonio Clay (LB), James Davis (RB), Tyler Grisham (WR), Haydrian Lewis (CB), Jock McKissic (DT), Phillip Merling (DE), Josh Miller (LB), Rendrick Taylor (WR)

2006 (8) Kevin Alexander (LB), Crezdon Butler (CB), Jeremy Campbell (LB), Jamie Cumbie (DE), Jacoby Ford (WR), Michael Palmer (TE), Ricky Sapp (DE), C.J. Spiller (RB)

2007 (11) Kourtnei Brown (DE), Miguel Chavis (DT), Scotty Cooper (LB), Chad Diehl (FB), Xavier Dye (WR), Marcus Gilchrist (CB), Jarvis Jenkins (DT), *Willy Korn (QB), Brian Linthicum (TE), DeAndre McDaniel (S), Rennie Moore (DE)

2008 (8) Daniel Andrews (LB), Da'Quan Bowers (DE), Jamie Harper (RB), Stanley Hunter (LB), Marquan Jones (WR), Antoine McClain (OL), Brandon Thompson (DT), Dawson Zimmerman (P)

2009 (3) Jonathan Meeks (DB), Mallicah Goodman (DE), Corico Hawkins (LB)

2010 (4) DeAndre Hopkins (WR), Justin Parker (LB), Martin Jenkins (DB), Darius Robinson (DB)

2011 (13) Martavis Bryant, Sammy Watkins, Mike Bellamy, Tony Steward,

Cole Stoudt, Stephone Anthony, Charone Peake, Robert Smith, Grady Jarrett, Corey Crawford, DeShawn Williams, Adam Humphries, Lateek Townsend *Did not letter

Zimmerman Candidate for Lowe's Senior Class Award

Clemson senior punter Dawson Zimmerman is one of 30 pre-season candidates for the Lowe's Senior Class Award. An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the Lowe's Senior Class Award honors the attributes of senior student-athletes in four areas: community, classroom, character and competition.

The award program is designed exclusively for college seniors who are utilizing their complete athletic eligibility, remaining committed to their university and pursuing the many rewards a senior season can bring. The award is sponsored by Lowe's, an official Corporate Partner of the NCAA, and is managed by Premier Sports Management.

The 30 candidates will be narrowed to 10 finalists midway through the regular season, and those 10 names will be placed on the official ballot. Ballots will be distributed through a nationwide voting system to media, coaches and fans who will select one finalist who best exemplifies excellence in the four Cs of community, classroom, character and competition.

Zimmerman has been outstanding in the classroom and one the field. A two-time Academic All-ACC performer, Zimmerman was a semifinalist for the Ray Guy Award last year when he averaged 40.6 yards per punt on a net punting basis, third best in Clemson history. His gross average of 40.8 yards per punt for a career is seventh best in school history.

The English major from Lawrenceville, GA had two punts over 75 yards last year, the first Clemson punt to have two punts over 75 yards in a career, never mind a season.

Zimmerman is one of just three ACC players on the list. The others are Chase Minnifield, a cornerback from Virginia and Will Snyderwine, a placekicker from Duke. Zimmerman and Drew Butler of Georgia are the only punters on the list.

Clemson Football Schedule, 2011

Clemson will play one of its most difficult schedules in history in 2011, as 10 of Clemson's 11 FBS opponents went to bowl games in 2010, including six who won at least nine games. Additionally, Wofford, Clemson's FBS opponent, was 10-3 and reached the second round of the NCAA FCS playoffs. The Terriers were ranked eighth in the preseason FCS poll.

Clemson's three FBS non-conference opponents had a combined 31-10 record last year, a .756 winning percentage and all won at least eight games last year. That list includes defending National Champion Auburn, who comes to Clemson on September 17. Troy (8-5) and South Carolina (9-5) also had outstanding seasons in 2010.

Overall, Clemson's 12 opponents in 2011 had a 104-55 record last year, a .658 winning percentage. **That is the highest winning percentage in the nation when considering 2010 winning percentage by 2011 opponents.** Each of Clemson's first five opponents won at least eight games, including four in a row who won at least 10 games. Seven of the eight ACC opponents went to bowl games last year and 10 of the 11 FBS teams went to bowls. Wofford went to the FCS playoffs.

Clemson has a 2011 schedule that is front-loaded with home games. The Tigers first four games will be at home, the first time that has happened since 1979 and just the third time in school history. The 1920 Tigers played their first five games at home.

Clemson plays six of its first eight games at home and, for the first time since 1989, Clemson will play just one home game after October 22.

Most Difficult 2011 Schedules

(Based on 2010 Opponent Winning Percentage)

Rk	School	W-L	Pct
1.	Clemson	104-54	.658
2.	Baylor	96-56	.632
3.	Kansas	97-57	.630
4.	Washington	96-57	.627
5.	LSU	95-58	.621
6.	Notre Dame	95-59	.617
	Iowa State	95-59	.617
8.	Miami (FL)	95-60	.613
9.	Mississippi	93-60	.608
10.	UNLV	92-60	.605

Swinney First Among Active Coaches in Career APR

Clemson Head Coach Dabo Swinney is first among active coaches in terms of career APR with a 988 figure. Swinney has been the head coach of the Tigers for three full seasons and for half of the 2008

season.

The Clemson football program's APR score for the 2009-10 cohort (four year period 2006-07 through 2009-10) ranks third best among the top 25 public institutions that play FBS college football. Only Rutgers and Ohio State are higher among **US News & World Report's** Top 25 public institutions that play FBS level football.

Rutgers has the top figure among public institutions with a 988 figure, followed by Ohio State at 985. Clemson is third at 977, and is followed by SEC rivals Georgia and Florida at 976. Joe Paterno's Penn State program is sixth among public institutions.

As far as all schools that play FBS Division I football, Clemson is in a tie for 1st best in the nation with private schools Stanford and Vanderbilt (also at 977).

Northwestern University's football program has the top APR for its football program with a 993 figure for the time period examined. Rutgers is second at 988 and Northern Illinois is third at 987.

Top Career APR Scores, Active Coaches			
Rk	Coach	School	APR
1.	Dabo Swinney	Clemson	988
2.	Pat Fitzgerald	Northwestern	986
3.	Ken Niumatalolo	Navy	981
4.	Paul Johnson	Georgia Tech	980
	Greg Schiano	Rutgers	980
6.	Tony Calhoun	Air Force	979
7.	Frank Spaziani	Boston College	978
8.	David Cutcliffe	Duke	976
9.	Chris Petersen	Boise State	975
10.	Rick Stockstill	Middle Tennessee	973

US News & World Report Top 25 Public Institutions that Play FBS Football

(Ranked by Football APR Scores)

Rk	School	APR
1.	Rutgers	988
2.	Ohio State	985
3.	Clemson	977
4.	Georgia	976
	Florida	976
6.	Penn State	972
7.	Wisconsin	967
8.	Indiana	966
	Georgia Tech	966
10.	UCLA	956
11.	North Carolina	955
	Virginia Tech	955
13.	UCONN	953
14.	Pittsburgh	949
	Illinois	949
	California	949
17.	Virginia	947
	Iowa	947
19.	Washington	946
20.	Texas	941

Clemson 2011 Recruiting Class Notes

•Clemson signed four players who were either first or second-team **USA Today** All-Americans, the most in one year in school recruiting history (USA Today teams date to 1982). Stephone Anthony and Tony Steward were two of the three first-team USA Today All-Americans at linebacker, while Mike Bellamy and Charone Peake were second team selections.

The previous high for USA Today first or second-team All-Americans by a Clemson class was three set in 1987, 1988, 1989 and 2006.

•Three Clemson signees were **Parade** All-Americans. Mike Bellamy and Stephone Anthony were first team and Lateek Townsend was second team.

•Clemson signed four players who played in the US Army All-American game in San Antonio (Charone Peake, Sammy Watkins, Lateek Townsend and Tony Steward). Three signees played in the Under Armour All-America game in Orlando (Mike Bellamy, Stephone Anthony and Spencer Region.)

•Clemson signed four five-star players according to Rivals.com. All four, Tony Steward (13), Sammy Watkins (15), Stephone Anthony (24), and Mike Bellamy (25) are ranked among the top 25 players in the nation.

Clemson signed six top 100 players according to Rivals.com this year and a seventh, Martavis Bryant, was a top 100 player according to Rivals last year before he went to prep school.

•ESPN.com named only 14 players as five-star athletes and two of the 14 (Peake and Steward) signed with Clemson.

•Clemson has two of the top four receivers in the nation according to ESPN.com. Charone Peake is ranked second and Sammy Watkins fourth.

•Clemson signed three of the top 10 linebackers in the nation according to Rivals.com. Tony Steward (1), Stephone Anthony (3) and Lateek Townsend (10). According to ESPN.com, Anthony is the #1 ranked outside linebacker and Steward is the #1 inside linebacker. Anthony is ranked as the top outside linebacker in the nation and Steward is ranked #2 at that position by 247sports.

•Clemson signed seven players who were on the 2011 ESPN.com top 150 list, the second most according to ESPN behind the Clemson 2008 class that had 10 top 150 players. ESPN ranked Clemson's 2008 class second best in the nation. Tony Steward is the highest ranked Clemson player according to ESPN.com with a #9 overall ranking.

*Anthony has the highest overall ranking with a #4 overall rating by Tom Lemming. He is Clemson's highest rated player by Scout.com (38) and Sporting News (6) as well. Steward is Clemson's highest rated player according to ESPN.com (9) and Rivals.com (13). Sammy Watkins is Clemson's highest rated player by 247sports (9).

•Clemson signed six of the top 50 players in the nation according to Tom Lemming: Stephone Anthony (4), Tony Steward (6), Cortez Davis (43), Mike Bellamy (46), Charone Peake (47), and Sammy Watkins (48). All six are rated as five-star recruits by Lemming.

•Clemson signed three of the top 12 players in the nation according to 247sports: Watkins (9), Anthony (10) and Steward (12).

•Three ESPN.com 150 players did not decide to pick Clemson until Wednesday: Tony Steward (9), Stephone Anthony (32) and Spencer Region (149).

•Clemson signed two of the top three prep school prospects according to 247sports. Corey Crawford is ranked first and Martavis Bryant was third.

Clemson Top 100/150 Players in 2011 Class

Player	ESPN	Rivals	Scout	SN	Lem	247
Mike Bellamy	72	25	60	37	46	73
*Martavis Bryant	43	84			61	
Cortez Davis					43	
Eric Mac Lain		59				
Charone Peake	14	83	73	66	47	50
Spencer Region	149					
Lateek Townsend	113			81		
Sammy Watkins	39	15	41	41	48	9
Stephone Anthony	32	24	38	6	4	10
Tony Steward	9	13	54	27	6	12

*2010 rating
SN—Sporting News; Lem—Tom Lemming of CBS College Sports, 247—247 Sports