

## OPPONENT'S RATINGS OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 1936-2008

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Many times, after a team wins the National Championship, it is acclaimed to be the “Greatest of All-Time;” and rightful so, at times, a team does deserve this recognition.

But often a No. 1's team's opponents finish the season at or below 0.500.

A classic example would be Oklahoma's 1956 National Championship eleven.

That season, of the Sooners' 10 opponents, only 1 had a winning season; winning at 41.5 clip\*

*\*Based on average of net points in games won; Average Margin of Victory, AMV.*

Or 28 years later, BYU won its lone championship, playing a 6-6 Michigan team in the Holiday Bowl. The Cougars won all 13 games by a 17.9, as it opponent's season were 4-7-2.

Then, there is 1944 Army, 9 major college opponents, were soundly defeated by a 52.1 margin; while 5 teams finished the season with a winning mark; 1 at an even 0.500, and 3 lost more games than it won.

More recently, 2005 Texas—the last major college, to date, to finish the season with a perfect slate, saw its AMV top-out at 33.8 as 9 of 13 opponents had winning seasons.

But what about the quality of the opponents these teams played. Sure a final poll ranking is one way; or how about Opponents' combined Winning Percentage—when not playing the champions.

The compilation below will combine several factors in its determination of the Opponent's Rating. Along with combined Winning Percentage; the Defensive Scoring Average allowed by the #1 team; a winning/0.500 season; the opponent was ranked either at kick-off or the final AP Poll and if the top team met a team stat champion.

Crunching all these numbers....and the National Champion's Opponents with the highest rating was Joe Paterno's first title-winning team in 1982. A composite average of the above shows the 1982 Nittany Lions' eleven coming out on top with a 97.1 rating.

The 1956 Sooners' opponents were rated dead last of the 91 National Champions, at 44.6—the only sub 50.0 rating. (1944 Army was 52<sup>nd</sup> at 73.7; BYU, 78<sup>th</sup> and 65.3 with the 2005 'Horns were 23<sup>rd</sup> at 82.9.

The National Champions used to complete this compilation are ones that are Official: as selected by the AP, UP-UPI, FWAA, NFFHF and USA Today, exclusively, 1936-2008.

Season	NC	G	DSA	OPPs W%- 1	2	3	4	Opp Rating
1982	Penn State	12	16.3	68.8	9	2	1	97.1
1999	Florida State	12	16.9	68.9	8	0	3	96.8
2006	Florida	14	13.5	68.6	10	2	0	94.1
1978	USC	12	11.8	68.9	10	1	2	93.7

2007	LSU	14	19.9	61.8	9.5	1	1	93.2
1996	Florida	13	17.0	66.9	7	1	1	92.9
1991	Miami FL	12	8.3	78.0	5.5	0	1	92.8
2008	Florida	14	12.9	66.7	11	1	1	92.6
2003	USC	13	18.4	67.6	6.5	0	0	92.5
1945	Army	9	5.1	79.1	5.5	0	0	89.7
1937	Pittsburgh	10	3.4	76.8	8	0.5	0	88.7
1990	Colorado	13	17.6	61.6	7	1.5	1	88.7
1978	Alabama	12	14.0	65.1	8.5	1	0	88.6
2000	Oklahoma	13	14.9	62.1	8	0	3	88.0
1988	Notre Dame	12	20.7	59.1	6	1	0	86.8
1943	Notre Dame	10	6.9	71.8	7	1	0	86.7
1990	Georgia Tech	12	15.5	60.4	8.5	0	1	85.4
1994	Nebraska	13	12.5	61.7	9	0	1	84.2
1998	Tennessee	13	14.5	60.7	8	0	1	84.2
1970	Nebraska	12	17.2	58.6	6	1	1	83.8
1958	LSU	11	4.8	70.9	7	1	0	83.7
1971	Nebraska	13	8.0	68.2	6	0	1	83.2
2005	Texas	13	16.4	53.5	9	1	3	82.9
1995	Nebraska	12	14.5	59.4	6.5	1	1	82.4
1940	Minnesota	8	8.9	67.7	5.5	0	0	82.1
1993	Florida State	13	9.9	63.2	8	1	0	82.1
1951	Tennessee	10	11.6	61.4	6	1	2	82.0
2002	Ohio State	14	13.1	59.2	8.5	0	1	81.8
1958	Iowa	10	14.6	57.4	8	1.5	0	81.5
1964	Alabama	11	8.0	63.7	6.5	2	1	81.2
2001	Miami FL	12	9.8	62.3	8	0	1	81.1
1950	Oklahoma	11	13.5	59.4	6	2	0	80.9
1970	Ohio State	11	10.9	59.4	8	2	0	80.3
1970	Texas	11	13.6	57.7	6.5	2	0	79.8
1985	Oklahoma	13	8.6	61.4	8.5	0	1	79.5
1968	Ohio State	10	15.0	58.9	5	0	0	78.9
1960	Minnesota	10	8.8	61.0	5.5	3	0	78.3
1989	Miami FL	12	10.6	57.7	7.5	2.5	0	78.3
1974	USC	12	11.8	55.4	8	1	2	78.2
2004	USC	13	13.0	59.0	6	0	0	78.0
1965	Alabama	11	9.7	59.6	6.5	1	1	77.8
1997	Nebraska	13	16.5	55.1	6	0	0	77.6
1987	Miami FL	12	10.4	60.2	5.5	0	1	77.1
1948	Michigan	9	4.9	66.9	5	0	0	76.8
1960	Mississippi	11	7.1	61.1	7	0	1	76.2
2003	LSU	14	11.0	56.5	8.5	0	0	76.0
1966	Michigan State	10	9.9	59.8	4	1	1	75.7

1965	Michigan State	11	6.9	59.5	6	3	0	75.4
1992	Alabama	13	9.4	58.1	6.5	1	0	75.0
1986	Penn State	12	11.1	58.8	5	0	0	74.9
1973	Notre Dame	11	8.1	60.4	5.5	0	0	74.0
1944	Army	9	3.9	60.3	8.5	0	1	73.7
1973	Alabama	12	9.4	58.3	4	2	0	73.7
1959	Syracuse	11	6.6	60.0	7	0	0	73.6
1975	Oklahoma	12	12.8	52.8	8	0	0	73.6
1967	USC	11	7.9	59.0	6.5	0	0	73.4
1991	Washington	12	9.6	57.3	5.5	0	1	73.4
1942	Ohio State	10	11.4	53.5	6	2	0	72.9
1977	Notre Dame	12	11.6	58.3	3	0	0	72.9
1997	Michigan	12	9.5	56.4	7	0	0	72.9
1972	USC	12	11.2	54.1	7	0	0	72.3
1983	Miami FL	12	11.3	53.6	6	0	1	71.9
1976	Pittsburgh	12	11.1	52.5	7	0	0	70.6
1981	Clemson	12	8.8	55.7	5	0	1	70.5
1952	Michigan State	9	9.3	56.6	4	0	0	69.9
1953	Maryland	11	3.5	56.8	6	2	1	69.3
1966	Notre Dame	10	3.8	59.2	5	1	0	69.0
1949	Notre Dame	10	8.6	55.3	5	0	0	68.9
1939	Texas A&M	11	2.8	57.7	7	0	1	68.5
1936	Minnesota	8	4.0	58.5	4	1.5	0	68.0
1979	Alabama	12	5.6	57.0	5	0	0	67.6
1941	Minnesota	8	4.8	59.4	3	0	0	67.2
1961	Alabama	11	2.3	58.3	6.5	0	0	67.1
1974	Oklahoma	11	8.4	52.4	6	0	0	66.8
1962	USC	11	8.4	53.6	3	0	1	66.0
1954	Ohio State	10	7.5	53.5	3.5	0	1	65.5
1963	Texas	11	6.5	54.0	5	0	0	65.5
1984	BYU	13	14.1	45.2	6	0	0	65.3
1957	Ohio State	10	9.2	50.0	6	0	0	65.2
1964	Notre Dame	10	7.7	53.7	2.5	1	0	64.9
1961	Ohio State	9	9.2	49.3	4	0	1	63.5
1969	Texas	11	10.8	47.0	4	0	1	62.8
1957	Auburn	10	2.8	55.0	4.5	0	0	62.3
1946	Notre Dame	9	2.7	52.5	4.5	2	0	61.7
1938	TCU	11	5.5	51.1	4.5	0	0	61.1
1980	Georgia	12	11.4	45.1	4	0	0	60.5
1955	Oklahoma	11	5.5	49.0	4	0	1	59.5
1954	UCLA	9	4.4	47.3	5.5	0	0	57.2
1947	Notre Dame	9	5.8	47.7	3	0	0	56.5
1964	Arkansas	11	5.8	45.2	3.5	0	1	55.5

1956	Oklahoma	10	5.1	38.5	1	0	0	44.6
<b>DSA--Defensive Scoring Average allowed by #1</b>								
1-Opponent's Composite W%; when not playing #1				2-Opponents had a winning or 0.500 season				
3-Opp Ranked by AP Won or Tied				4-Played a Team Stat Champ				