

## A.P. Preseason Football Rankings and Final Rank

Is there a correlation?

I took the Associated Press Preseason Football Poll and matched it with the Final Poll for the years 1989 – 2009, the years that the A.P. picked 25 teams in their preseason and final polls. If a team was not ranked in the top 25 at the end of the season, I looked to see if it had received any votes and counted down from 25 to see where it ranked. If it received no votes, then I assigned it the rank of one more than the number of teams listed.

From 1968 to 1988, the A.P. picked a Top 20 in both their preseason and final polls. From 1962 to 1967, the Associated Press picked a Top Ten in both Preseason and Final polls. In 1961, the A.P. picked a Top Ten Preseason poll and a Top 20 Final Poll. From 1950 to 1960, the A.P. picked twenty teams for both the Preseason and Final polls. Before 1960, the A.P. apparently didn't pick a Preseason poll.

The correlation coefficient ranges from  $-1$  to  $1$ . A value of  $1$  implies that a linear equation describes the relationship between  $X$  and  $Y$  perfectly, with all data points lying on a line for which  $Y$  increases as  $X$  increases. A value of  $-1$  implies that all data points lie on a line for which  $Y$  decreases as  $X$  increases. A value of  $0$  implies that there is no linear correlation between the variables

In the twenty-one years that the Associated Press has been picking twenty-five teams in its Preseason and Final Polls, the best predictions happened in 2001 when the pollsters had a correlation coefficient of  $0.75143$ . Despite having eleven (11) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll, the top ten teams in the preseason poll all finished in the top 25 at the end of the season.

The worst year for the pollsters was 1994 when the correlation coefficient was just  $0.23232$ . One of the teams that hurt the rankings that year was Notre Dame, which was picked to finish second, but didn't even get a vote at the end of the year.

# 2009

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Florida	3	2
2	Texas	2	0
3	Oklahoma	NR (26)	23
4	USC	22	18
5	Alabama	1	4
6	Ohio St.	5	1
7	Virginia Tech	10	3
8	Mississippi	20	12
9	Penn St.	9	0
9	Oklahoma St.	NR (30)	21
11	LSU	17	6
12	California	NR (45+)	33
13	Georgia	NR (33)	20
14	Boise St.	4	10
15	Georgia Tech	13	2
16	Oregon	11	5
17	TCU	6	11
18	Florida St.	NR (34)	16
19	Utah	18	1
20	BYU	12	8
21	North Carolina	NR (45+)	24
22	Iowa	7	15
23	Notre Dame	NR (45+)	22
24	Nebraska	14	10
25	Kansas	NR (45+)	20

The sum of the differences is 287.

There were eight teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.41201.

# 2008

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Georgia	13	12
2	Ohio St.	9	7
3	Southern Cal	3	0
4	Oklahoma	5	1
5	Florida	1	4
6	Missouri	19	13
7	LSU	NR (28)	21
8	West Virginia	23	15
9	Clemson	NR (38+)	29
10	Auburn	NR (38+)	28
11	Texas	4	11
12	Texas Tech	12	0
13	Wisconsin	NR (38+)	25
14	Kansas	NR (37)	23
15	Arizona St.	NR (38+)	23
16	BYU	25	9
17	Virginia Tech	15	2
18	Tennessee	NR (38+)	20
19	South Florida	NR (38+)	19
20	Illinois	NR (38+)	18
21	Oregon	10	11
22	Penn St.	8	14
23	Wake Forest	NR (38+)	15
24	Alabama	6	18
25	Pittsburgh	NR (27)	2

The sum of the differences is 340.

There were eleven (11) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll. The preseason number one pick finished 13<sup>th</sup> and three of the teams picked in the top ten were not ranked in the Top 25 at the end of the year.

The correlation coefficient is 0.32713.

# 2007

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	USC	3	2
2	LSU	1	1
3	West Virginia	6	3
4	Texas	10	6
5	Michigan	18	13
6	Florida	13	7
7	Wisconsin	24	17
8	Oklahoma	8	0
9	Virginia Tech	9	0
10	Louisville	NR (40+)	30
11	Ohio St.	5	6
12	California	NR (40+)	28
13	Georgia	2	11
14	UCLA	NR (40+)	26
15	Tennessee	12	3
16	Rutgers	NR (39)	23
17	Penn St.	NR (27)	10
18	Auburn	15	3
19	Florida St.	NR (40+)	21
20	Nebraska	NR (40+)	20
21	Arkansas	NR (31)	10
22	TCU	NR (40+)	28
23	Hawaii	19	4
24	Boise St.	NR (30)	6
25	Texas A&M	NR (40+)	15

The sum of the differences is 293.

There were eleven (11) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.63974.

# 2006

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Ohio State	2	1
2	Notre Dame	17	15
3	Texas	13	10
4	Auburn	9	5
5	West Virginia	10	5
6	USC	4	2
7	Florida	1	6
8	LSU	3	5
9	California	14	5
10	Oklahoma	11	1
11	Florida State	NR (34+)	23
12	Miami	NR (34+)	22
13	Louisville	6	7
14	Michigan	8	6
15	Georgia	23	8
16	Iowa	NR (34+)	18
17	Virginia Tech	19	2
18	Clemson	NR (34+)	16
19	Penn State	24	5
20	Nebraska	NR (27)	7
21	Oregon	NR (34+)	23
22	TCU	22	0
23	Tennessee	25	2
24	Arizona State	NR (34+)	10
25	Texas Tech	NR (34+)	9

The sum of the differences is 213.

There were eight (8) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll. The top ten teams in the preseason poll all finished in the top 25 at the end of the season.

The correlation coefficient is 0.70912.

# 2005

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	USC	2	1
2	Texas	1	1
3	Tennessee	NR (43+)	40
4	Michigan	NR (28)	24
5	LSU	6	1
6	Ohio St.	4	2
7	Oklahoma	22	15
8	Virginia Tech	7	1
9	Miami	17	8
10	Florida	12	2
11	Iowa	NR (31)	20
12	Louisville	19	7
13	Georgia	10	3
14	Florida St.	23	9
15	Purdue	NR (43+)	28
16	Auburn	14	2
17	Texas A&M	NR (43+)	26
18	Boise St.	NR (34)	16
19	California	25	6
20	Arizona St.	NR (38)	18
21	Texas Tech	20	1
22	Boston College	18	4
23	Pittsburgh	NR (43+)	20
24	Fresno St.	NR (32)	8
25	Virginia	NR (33)	8

The sum of the differences is 271.

There were ten (10) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.52219.

# 2004

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	USC	1	0
2	Oklahoma	3	1
3	Georgia	7	4
4	LSU	16	12
5	Florida State	15	10
6	Miami	11	5
7	Texas	5	2
8	Michigan	14	6
9	Ohio State	20	11
10	West Virginia	NR (30)	20
11	Florida	NR (26)	15
12	California	9	3
13	Kansas State	NR (38+)	25
14	Tennessee	13	1
15	Clemson	NR (38+)	23
16	Virginia	23	7
17	Auburn	2	15
18	Missouri	NR (38+)	20
19	Iowa	8	11
20	Utah	4	16
21	Wisconsin	17	4
22	Maryland	NR (38+)	16
23	Oregon	NR (38+)	15
24	Purdue	NR (33)	9
25	Minnesota	NR (35)	10

The sum of the differences is 261.

There were nine (9) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.54704 .

# 2003

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Oklahoma	3	2
2	Ohio State	4	2
3	Miami	5	2
4	Michigan	6	2
5	Texas	12	7
6	Auburn	NR (30)	24
7	Kansas State	14	7
8	USC	1	7
9	Virginia Tech	NR (36+)	27
10	Pittsburgh	NR (32)	22
11	Georgia	7	4
12	Tennessee	15	3
13	Florida State	11	2
14	LSU	2	12
15	Maryland	17	2
16	NC State	NR (32)	16
17	Washington	NR (36+)	19
18	Virginia	NR (28)	10
19	Purdue	18	1
20	Notre Dame	NR (36+)	16
21	Wisconsin	NR (36+)	15
22	Arizona State	NR (36+)	14
23	Colorado State	NR (36+)	13
24	Oklahoma State	NR (26)	2
25	TCU	25	0

The sum of the differences is 231.

There were eleven (11) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.64598.



# 2002

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Miami	2	1
2	Oklahoma	5	3
3	Florida State	21	18
4	Texas	6	2
5	Tennessee	NR (41+)	36
6	Florida	NR (26)	20
7	Colorado	20	13
8	Georgia	3	5
9	Washington	NR (41+)	32
10	Nebraska	NR (41+)	31
11	Washington State	10	1
12	Michigan	9	3
13	Ohio State	1	12
14	LSU	31	17
15	Oregon	NR (41+)	26
16	Virginia Tech	18	2
17	Louisville	NR (41+)	24
18	Michigan State	NR (41+)	23
19	Marshall	24	5
20	USC	4	16
21	Maryland	13	8
22	South Carolina	NR (41+)	19
23	Texas A&M	NR (41+)	18
24	Penn State	16	8
25	Wisconsin	NR (33)	8

The sum of the differences is 351.

There were ten (10) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll. Four of the teams picked to be in the Top 10 did not finish in the Top 25.

The correlation coefficient is 0.31791.

# 2001

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Florida	3	2
2	Miami	1	1
3	Oklahoma	6	3
4	Nebraska	8	4
5	Texas	5	0
6	Florida State	15	9
7	Oregon	2	5
8	Tennessee	4	4
9	Virginia Tech	18	9
10	Georgia Tech	24	14
11	Oregon State	NR (41+)	30
12	Michigan	20	8
13	Kansas State	NR (41+)	28
14	LSU	7	7
15	Washington	19	4
16	Northwestern	NR (41+)	25
17	UCLA	NR (39)	22
18	Notre Dame	NR (41+)	23
19	Clemson	NR (34)	25
20	Mississippi State	NR (41+)	21
21	South Carolina	13	8
22	Wisconsin	NR (41+)	19
23	Ohio State	NR (29)	6
24	Colorado State	NR (41+)	17
25	Alabama	NR (37)	12

The sum of the differences is 306.

There were eleven (11) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll. The top ten teams in the preseason poll all finished in the top 25 at the end of the season.

The correlation coefficient is 0.75143.

## 2000

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Nebraska	8	7
2	Florida State	5	3
3	Alabama	NR (40+)	37
4	Wisconsin	23	19
5	Miami	2	3
6	Michigan	11	5
7	Texas	12	5
8	Kansas State	9	1
9	Florida	10	1
10	Georgia	20	10
11	Virginia Tech	6	5
12	Tennessee	NR (26)	14
13	Washington	3	10
14	Purdue	13	1
15	USC	NR (40+)	25
16	Ohio State	NR (29)	13
17	Clemson	16	1
18	Mississippi	NR (40+)	22
19	Oklahoma	1	18
20	TCU	21	1
21	Illinois	NR (40+)	19
22	Penn State	NR (40+)	18
23	Southern Miss.	NR (31)	8
24	Colorado	NR (40+)	16
25	Michigan State	NR (40+)	15

The sum of the differences is 277.

There were ten (10) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.55001.

# 1999

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Florida State	1	0
2	Tennessee	9	7
3	Penn State	11	8
4	Arizona	NR (38+)	34
5	Florida	12	7
6	Nebraska	3	3
7	Texas A&M	23	16
8	Michigan	5	3
9	Ohio State	NR (38+)	29
10	Wisconsin	4	6
11	Georgia Tech	20	9
12	Miami	15	3
13	Virginia Tech	2	11
14	Georgia	16	2
15	Colorado	NR (28)	13
16	UCLA	NR (38+)	22
17	Texas	21	4
18	Notre Dame	NR (38+)	20
19	USC	NR (38+)	19
20	Alabama	8	12
21	Kansas State	6	15
22	Arkansas	17	5
23	Purdue	25	2
24	Virginia	NR (38+)	14
25	Arizona State	NR (38+)	13

The sum of the differences is 277.

There were eight (8) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.41748.

# 1998

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Ohio State	2	1
2	Florida State	3	1
3	Florida	5	2
4	Nebraska	19	15
5	Michigan	12	7
6	Kansas State	10	4
7	UCLA	8	1
8	Arizona State	NR (36+)	28
9	LSU	NR (36+)	27
10	Tennessee	1	9
11	West Virginia	NR (31)	20
12	North Carolina	NR (36+)	24
13	Penn State	17	4
14	Texas A&M	11	3
15	Colorado State	NR (36+)	21
16	Virginia	18	2
17	Syracuse	25	8
18	Washington	NR (36+)	18
19	Georgia	14	5
20	Wisconsin	6	14
21	Southern Miss.	NR (36+)	15
22	Notre Dame	22	0
23	Michigan State	NR (36+)	13
24	Arizona	4	20
25	Auburn	NR (36+)	11

The sum of the differences is 273.

There were nine (9) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.40155.

# 1997

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Penn State	16	15
2	Florida	4	2
3	Florida State	3	0
4	Washington	18	14
5	Tennessee	7	2
6	Nebraska	2	4
7	North Carolina	6	1
8	Colorado	NR (41+)	33
9	Ohio State	12	3
10	LSU	13	3
11	Notre Dame	NR (38)	27
12	Texas	NR (41+)	29
13	Miami	NR (41+)	28
14	Michigan	1	13
15	Alabama	NR (41+)	26
16	Auburn	11	5
17	Syracuse	21	4
18	Stanford	NR (41+)	23
19	BYU	NR (41+)	22
20	Clemson	NR (31)	11
21	Iowa	NR (39)	18
22	USC	NR (41+)	19
23	Kansas State	8	15
24	Wisconsin	NR (35)	11
25	Michigan State	NR (34)	9

The sum of the differences is 337.

There were twelve (12) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.5308.

# 1996

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Nebraska	6	5
2	Tennessee	9	7
3	Florida State	3	0
4	Florida	1	3
5	Colorado	8	3
6	Notre Dame	19	13
7	USC	NR (35+)	28
8	Texas	23	15
9	Ohio State	2	7
10	Syracuse	21	11
11	Penn State	7	4
12	Miami	14	2
13	Texas A&M	NR (35+)	22
14	Michigan	20	6
15	Alabama	11	4
16	Virginia Tech	13	3
17	Auburn	24	7
18	Northwestern	15	3
19	LSU	12	7
20	Arizona State	4	16
21	Kansas State	17	4
22	Iowa	18	4
23	Virginia	NR (33)	10
24	Kansas	NR (35+)	11
25	Clemson	NR (34)	9

The sum of the differences is 204.

There were only five (5) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.48245.

# 1995

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Florida State	4	3
2	Nebraska	1	1
3	Texas A&M	15	12
4	Penn State	13	9
5	Florida	2	3
6	Auburn	22	16
7	USC	12	5
8	Tennessee	3	5
9	Notre Dame	11	2
10	Alabama	21	11
11	Miami	20	9
12	Ohio State	6	6
13	Colorado	5	8
14	Michigan	17	3
15	Oklahoma	NR (32+)	17
16	UCLA	NR (32+)	16
17	Virginia	16	1
18	Texas	14	4
19	Arizona	NR (32+)	13
20	North Carolina	NR (29)	9
21	Wisconsin	NR (32+)	11
22	Boston College	NR (32+)	10
23	West Virginia	NR (32+)	9
24	Virginia Tech	10	14
24	Washington	NR (27)	3

The sum of the differences is 200.

There were eight (8) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll. The top 14 teams in the preseason poll all finished in the Top 25 at the end of the season.

The correlation coefficient is 0.65562.



# 1994

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Florida	7	6
2	Notre Dame	NR (35+)	33
3	Florida State	4	1
4	Nebraska	1	3
5	Michigan	12	7
6	Miami	6	0
7	Arizona	20	13
8	Colorado	3	5
9	Penn State	2	7
10	Wisconsin	NR (28)	18
11	Auburn	9	2
12	Alabama	5	7
13	Tennessee	22	9
14	UCLA	NR (35+)	21
15	Texas A&M	8	7
16	Oklahoma	NR (35+)	19
17	USC	13	4
18	Texas	25	7
19	North Carolina	NR (27)	8
20	Ohio State	14	6
21	Illinois	NR (29)	8
22	Virginia Tech	NR (26)	4
23	Washington	NR (30)	7
24	West Virginia	NR (35+)	11
25	Clemson	NR (35+)	10

The sum of the differences is 223.

There were ten (10) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.23232.

# 1993

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Florida State	1	0
2	Alabama	14	12
3	Michigan	21	18
4	Texas A&M	9	5
5	Miami	15	8
6	Syracuse	NR (36+)	30
7	Notre Dame	2	5
8	Nebraska	3	5
9	Florida	5	4
10	Tennessee	12	2
11	Colorado	16	5
12	Washington	NR (33)	21
13	Georgia	NR (36+)	23
14	Arizona	10	4
15	Stanford	NR (36+)	21
16	Penn State	8	8
17	Ohio State	11	6
18	USC	NR (26)	8
19	BYU	NR (36+)	17
20	North Carolina	19	1
21	Boston College	13	8
22	Oklahoma	17	5
23	Clemson	23	0
24	Mississippi State	NR (36+)	12
25	NC State	NR (36+)	11

The sum of the differences is 249.

There were eight (8) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.44894.

# 1992

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Miami	3	2
2	Washington	11	9
3	Notre Dame	4	1
4	Florida	10	6
5	Florida State	2	3
6	Michigan	5	1
7	Texas A&M	7	0
8	Penn State	NR (26)	18
9	Alabama	1	8
10	Syracuse	6	4
11	Nebraska	14	3
12	Colorado	13	1
13	Clemson	NR (36+)	23
14	Georgia	8	6
15	Oklahoma	NR (36+)	21
16	Iowa	NR (36+)	20
17	Stanford	9	8
18	UCLA	NR (36+)	18
19	Ohio State	18	1
20	California	NR (36+)	16
21	Tennessee	12	9
22	Mississippi State	23	1
23	Georgia Tech	NR (36+)	13
24	BYU	NR (30)	6
25	Texas	NR (36+)	11

The sum of the differences is 209.

There were nine (9) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.68578.

# 1991

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Florida State	4	3
2	Michigan	6	4
3	Miami	1	2
4	Washington	2	2
5	Florida	7	2
6	Notre Dame	13	7
7	Penn State	3	4
8	Georgia Tech	NR (26)	18
9	Clemson	18	9
10	Oklahoma	16	6
11	Tennessee	14	3
12	Houston	NR (35+)	23
13	Colorado	20	7
14	Texas	NR (35+)	21
15	Nebraska	15	0
16	USC	NR (35+)	19
17	Auburn	NR (35+)	18
18	Iowa	10	8
19	BYU	23	4
20	Michigan State	NR (35+)	15
21	Texas A&M	12	9
22	Alabama	5	17
23	Ohio State	NR (29)	6
24	UCLA	19	5
25	Syracuse	11	14

The sum of the differences is 226.

There were seven (7) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.43573.

# 1990

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Miami	3	2
2	Notre Dame	6	4
3	Auburn	19	16
4	Florida State	4	0
5	Colorado	1	4
6	Michigan	7	1
7	Nebraska	24	17
8	Tennessee	8	0
9	USC	20	11
10	Clemson	9	1
11	Illinois	25	14
12	Alabama	NR (32)	20
13	Texas A&M	15	2
14	Arkansas	NR (41+)	27
15	Virginia	23	8
16	BYU	22	6
17	Ohio State	NR (33)	16
18	Pittsburgh	NR (41+)	23
19	UCLA	36	17
20	Washington	5	15
21	Penn State	11	10
22	Oklahoma	17	5
23	Michigan State	16	7
24	Houston	NR (41+)	17
25	West Virginia	NR (41+)	16

The sum of the differences is 259.

There were six (6) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.56257.

# 1989

<u>Preseason</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1	Michigan	7	6
2	Notre Dame	2	0
3	Nebraska	11	8
4	Miami	1	3
5	USC	8	3
6	Florida State	3	3
7	LSU	NR (35+)	28
8	Auburn	6	2
9	UCLA	NR (35+)	26
10	Arkansas	13	3
11	Penn State	15	4
12	Clemson	12	0
13	Syracuse	NR (28)	15
14	Colorado	4	10
15	Oklahoma	NR (35+)	20
16	Alabama	9	7
17	West Virginia	21	4
18	Arizona	25	7
19	BYU	22	3
20	Pittsburgh	17	3
21	Houston	14	7
22	Illinois	10	12
23	Iowa	NR (35+)	12
24	NC State	NR (34)	10
25	Ohio State	24	1

The sum of the differences is 197.

There were six (6) teams that were ranked in the preseason that were not ranked in the final poll.

The correlation coefficient is 0.49141.

The following charts show the National Champion and where it was picked in the Preseason Poll. Six times since 1950 the National Champion was not ranked in the Preseason (in 1958, 1960, 1962, 1981, 1983, and 1984)!

<b>Year</b>	<b>National Champion</b>	<b>Preseason Rank (Out of 25)</b>
1989	Miami	4
1990	Colorado	5
1991	Miami	3
1992	Alabama	9
1993	Florida State	1
1994	Nebraska	4
1995	Nebraska	2
1996	Florida	4
1997	Michigan	14
1998	Tennessee	10
1999	Florida St.	1
2000	Oklahoma	19
2001	Miami	2
2002	Ohio State	13
2003	USC	8
2004	USC	1
2005	Texas	2
2006	Florida	7
2007	LSU	2
2008	Florida	5
2009		

<b>Year</b>	<b>National Champion</b>	<b>Preseason Rank (Out of 20)</b>
1968	Ohio State	11
1969	Texas	4
1970	Nebraska	9
1971	Nebraska	2
1972	USC	8
1973	Notre Dame	8
1974	Oklahoma	1
1975	Oklahoma	1
1976	Pittsburgh	9
1977	Notre Dame	3
1978	Alabama	1
1979	Alabama	2
1980	Georgia	16
1981	Clemson	NR
1982	Penn State	8
1983	Miami	NR
1984	BYU	NR
1985	Oklahoma	1
1986	Penn State	6
1987	Miami	10
1988	Notre Dame	13



<b>Year</b>	<b>National Champion</b>	<b>Preseason Rank (Out of 10)</b>
1961	Alabama	3
1962	USC	NR
1963	Texas	5
1964	Alabama	6
1965	Alabama	5
1966	Notre Dame	6
1967	USC	7

<b>Year</b>	<b>National Champion</b>	<b>Preseason Rank (Out of 20)</b>
1950	Oklahoma	6
1951	Tennessee	1
1952	Michigan State	1
1953	Maryland	9
1954	Ohio State	20
1955	Oklahoma	2
1956	Oklahoma	1
1957	Auburn	15
1958	LSU	NR
1959	Syracuse	20
1960	Minnesota	NR