

Winningest Teams without an AP National Championship

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Three schools with ties the SEC are among the Top 10 Winningest College Football programs during the AP Era, since 1936.

Arkansas, which can claim most of its 484 wins while a member of the old Southwest Conference, is tied with Arizona State with the most wins over the past 74 college football seasons.

The Hogs have been ranked in 26 final AP Polls; but have yet to be its No. 1; as this ranks the Hogs second for most final poll appearances without a title. (The school was the 1964 FWAA National Champion; but this isn't count with the AP totals.

Ole Miss is one of three teams to have garnered 20 rankings and in a spot in the Writers and Broadcasters' poll without a title. Just three wins back is former SEC member Georgia Tech (a 1990 Coaches—then a UPI poll--title); and rounding-out the Top 10 with 466 wins with just a FWAA title (1960) is Ole Miss.

This time of the year, the talk is on college football; which teams will earn a spot in the weekly rankings and who the eventual National Champion will be. In fact, the same old teams seem like the same ones who repeat week-afterweek and hoist the crystal ball as #1 into the air.

Yes, tradition is great and the thrill of seeing a game live; hearing the band warm-up and more start the goose bumps tingling...and all this is what makes college football the sport it is.

Check-out the AP's Pre-Season Poll; and you will see that of the 25 teams ranked 19 have earned a National Championship by one of the four "accepted as official" by most fans and the NCAA (AP, Coaches, FWAA, NFFHF selections.)

Of the teams in the Top 10, 8 fall into the category as a previous champion, that have been named by the sources in the previous paragraph.

The two teams—Boise State and Virginia Tech--that have never claimed a title square-off Sept. 6; what a way to kick-off the season.

These two are just many teams that play and move up and down in the weekly poll...all with the hope and dream to shout “We’re #1!”

Let’s take a look at the teams that have appeared in a final survey the most frequently—all without claiming the title.

There has been more statresearch is done on the AP Poll than the other official sources combined.

Did you know that Alan Gould, former sports editor of the AP, is the man responsible for the weekly rankings?

Here’s a little background on the history of the AP College Football poll. The first known poll by this service--that is available--was released in 1934. For some reason it really didn’t take hold till 1936.

Gould had an idea for a poll a year before. He began thinking how could there be a ranking of the nation’s top teams. It was suggested that he involve other sportswriters from across the country—so he wouldn’t take all the flack himself.

Then, in 1935 a story appeared: *Perfect Record Required for National Championship consideration*; Gould, using this method, selected three teams as his No.1 for the 1935 season, Minnesota, SMU and Princeton.

It must have been a pre-bowl poll; as SMU traveled from Big D to Pasadena to participate in the Rose Bowl; meeting Stanford--and lost 7-0.

In the annual **SEC Football Media Guide**, an *All-Time Final Associated Press Poll* shows a complete listing of every team--129 in all--that has earned a nod in the final survey.

Of the 129 teams, three Fresno State, Bowling Green and Central Michigan have earned enough points to be in the composite poll; but have never made into the elite 20--meaning they were ranked somewhere between 21-25 since 1989, when the poll increased the number of teams that were ranked.

Based on the number of appearances in the final AP Poll, six schools have earned 20 or more spots in the final survey--but never won a title; however, some have been a champion in the Coaches', FWAAs or NFFHF selections--beginning with the 1954, when the first AP-Coaches poll had had their first split national championships.

Five of the six teams, have been ranked #2 in an AP final survey.

The following charts show the Top 10 teams based on wins and winning percentage during the AP-Era 1936-2009 and have failed to win the poll's championship.

The Top 10--based on appearances in the Top 20; and no AP National Championship reveals:

UCLA	30	1*
Arkansas	26	1*
Georgia Tech	21	2*
Washington	20	2*
Iowa	20	1*
Ole Miss	20	0*
Duke	16	1
Wisconsin	16	0
Arizona State	15	0
North Carolina	15	0

Purdue

15 0

**At some point, beginning in 1954; this school was #1 as selected by the Coaches; FWAA or NFFHF.*

• ➤ **Within reach:** Missouri 14 appearances, 0 No.2 ranking; followed by Virginia Tech and West Virginia, each with 13-0; then with 12 appearances were Stanford, California and Houston, with Stanford the only one with a No. 2 ranking. Three schools have 11 Final Top 20 slots: SMU (1 second spot), Illinois and Navy and Baylor, Boston College and North Carolina State each had 10 and zero.

Heading into the current season, Arkansas and Arizona State are tied with 484 victories—the most of 16 teams that have never won an AP National Championship—3 triumphs in front of Georgia Tech. Depending on the number of triumphs in 2010, there could be a shuffling in the Top 10 in victories.

Teams	W	L	T	Games Played	Win%
Arizona State	484	282	15	781	0.629
Arkansas	484	324	18	826	0.597
Georgia Tech	481	328	21	830	0.592
Fresno State	477	314	19	810	0.60062
UCLA	475	305	28	808	0.605
Southern Miss	472	279	11	762	0.627
Miami-Ohio	467	281	24	772	0.62
West Virginia	467	321	18	806	0.59057
Mississippi	466	314	20	800	0.595
Boston College	451	310	17	778	0.591

While there is closeness in triumphs; in terms of winning percentage there is a huge gap between No. 1 and 2 in overall winning percentage.

Teams	Wins	Loses	Ties	Games Played	Win%
Boise State	219	68	2	289	0.761

Arizona State	484	282	15	781	0.629
Southern Miss	472	279	11	762	0.626
Miami-Ohio	467	281	24	772	0.620
Bowling Green	438	286	31	755	0.607
Central Michigan	444	286	17	747	0.6058
UCLA	475	305	28	808	0.6052
Fresno State	477	314	19	810	0.6006
Arkansas	484	324	18	826	0.597
Mississippi	466	314	20	800	0.595