

The New York Times

Final College Top 20

Final computer ranking based on games through Jan. 1

Rank	Team	Previous Rank	Record	Avg. Margin		OPPONENTS' PERFORMANCES	
				of Victory	Rating	*Record	Avg. Margin of Victory
1	Clemson	2	12-0-0	19.4	1.000	68-54-1	2.5
2	Penn St.	4	10-2-0	17.4	.960	83-39-2	6.2
3	Pittsburgh	6	11-1-0	18.8	.956	76-46-1	1.8
4	Nebraska	1	9-3-0	19.9	.939	78-47-2	2.7
5	S. M. U.	5	10-1-0	20.7	.927	57-51-6	-1.2
6	Texas	8	10-1-1	8.7	.919	70-50-5	2.8
7	Georgia	3	10-2-0	20.8	.917	66-57-1	-0.3
8	Michigan	12	9-3-0	16.1	.895	66-53-1	-0.5
9	Miami, Florida	10	9-2-0	9.1	.875	71-42-2	4.0
10	Arizona State	9	9-2-0	18.3	.862	58-53-4	1.0
11	Alabama	7	9-2-1	12.1	.858	68-54-3	-0.7
12	Washington	18	10-2-0	9.2	.809	56-65-3	-1.5
12	N. Carolina	15	10-2-0	18.8	.809	62-59-2	-1.5
14	U. S. C.	11	9-3-0	10.3	.807	68-55-3	1.4
15	Ohio State	16	9-3-0	11.2	.803	62-61-0	-1.8
16	Oklahoma	--	7-4-1	12.3	.776	73-52-2	0.3
17	U. C. L. A.	13	7-4-1	8.8	.770	73-52-0	4.3
18	Iowa	14	8-4-0	8.6	.735	69-51-2	0.7
19	Miss. St.	--	8-4-0	6.7	.734	63-59-4	-0.6
20	Missouri	--	8-4-0	9.8	.729	67-59-3	-0.3

The New York Times's computer football rankings are based on an analysis of each team's scores with emphasis on three factors: who won a game, by what margin and against what quality of opposition. Distinctions are also made as to the success of the offensive and defensive units. The quality of a team is determined by examining its performance against each of its opponents, and by then examining these opponents' other foes. The Times's computer model collapses runaway scores to reduce the effect of any one game on the total ranking.

Each week all games played by all teams are re-evaluated to take into consideration the most recent week's results, which count more than earlier games.

The top-ranked team is assigned a rating of 1.000; the ratings of all other teams are percentages reflecting their strength relative to the top team. Thus the ratings indicate how close a team may be to those ranked above it or below it.

* The victories and losses of any given team have been deducted from its opponents' composite record. Hence the record of the top-ranked team's opponents does not include the games of the top-ranked team.