

## Schedule Strength – Five Sources

Listed here are five different sources each using their own methods to quantify and rank teams based on schedule strength. *USA Today's College Football Encyclopedia* lists Top Opponent Records from 1953-2008 while the NCAA chronicled their 'Toughest Schedule Leaders' from 1977-2008. Please also consult Appendix I to review the schedule strength metrics (**SoS**) published by *Sports-Reference* for all national champions in the modern era.

Year	Dunkel	USA Today	USA Today	National	*DNI Bowl games	NCAA 'Toughest	Sorensen	Sagarin
	Index #1s	Top Opp			Opp Rec %	Champion		
		Rec Leader			Sched' Leader	Opp W/L % W-L-T		
2016	Alabama	no data	no data	Clemson	no data	no data	Clemson	Alabama
2015	Alabama	no data	no data	Alabama	no data	no data	Alabama	Alabama
2014	Ohio State	no data	no data	Ohio State	no data	no data	Auburn	Auburn
2013	Florida. St.	no data	no data	Florida. St.	no data	no data	Arizona St.	Stanford
2012	Alabama	no data	no data	Alabama	no data	no data	Missouri	Missouri
2011	Alabama	no data	no data	Alabama	no data	no data	Kansas	Kansas
2010	Auburn	no data	no data	Auburn	no data	no data	Oregon St.	Oregon St.
2009	Alabama	no data	no data	Alabama	no data	no data	Oregon	Mississippi St.
2008	Florida	Texas	0.647	Florida	Oklahoma	.655 95-50-0	Virginia	Washington
2007	USC	Texas A&M	0.629	LSU	Texas A&M	.630 85-50-0	Texas A&M	UCLA
2006	Florida	Florida	0.652	Florida	Florida	.671 100-49-0	Stanford	Stanford
2005	Texas	Oklahoma	0.708	Texas	Oklahoma	.689 84-38-0	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
2004	USC	Texas A&M	0.682	USC	Texas A&M	.642 86-42-0	Texas A&M	North Carolina
2003	LSU	Alabama	0.677	LSU / USC	Alabama	.662 98-50-0	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
2002	USC	USC	0.677	Ohio State	USC	.649 107-58-0	USC	USC
2001	Miami	Colorado	0.648	Miami	California	.652 73-39-0	Tennessee	Tennessee
2000	Oklahoma	Florida	0.655	Oklahoma	Florida	.653 79-42-0	Stanford	Colorado
1999	Florida. St.	Alabama	0.686	Florida. St.	Alabama	.678 80-38-0	Alabama	Alabama
1998	Tennessee	Auburn	0.686	Tennessee	Auburn	.685 74-34-0	Auburn	Baylor
1997	Nebraska	Tennessee	0.683	UM / Neb	Colorado	.673 76-37-0	Auburn	no data
1996	Florida	Arkansas	0.641	Florida	Florida	.631 70-41-0	Purdue	no data
1995	Nebraska	Notre Dame	0.646	Nebraska	Notre Dame	.638 67-37-5	Indiana	no data
1994	Florida. St.	Michigan	0.667	Nebraska	Michigan	.631 67-38-6	Michigan	no data
1993	Florida. St.	Miami	0.674	Florida. St.	LSU	.632 67-38-5	Stanford	no data
1992	Alabama	Florida	0.638	Alabama	USC	.636 68-38-4	USC	no data
1991	Washington	Florida	0.671	Washington	South Carolina	.644 57-31-2	USC	no data
1990	Florida. St.	Notre Dame	0.657	Colo / GaTech	Colorado	.628 72-42-3	Stanford	no data
1989	Miami	Notre Dame	0.651	Miami	Notre Dame	.655 74-38-4	Notre Dame	no data
1988	Notre Dame	Virginia Tech	0.667	Notre Dame	Virginia Tech	.673 74-36-0	USC	no data
1987	Miami	Notre Dame	0.662	Miami	Notre Dame	.673 71-34-2	South Carolina	no data
1986	Oklahoma	Florida	0.664	Penn State	Florida	.682 64-29-3	California	no data
1985	Oklahoma	Notre Dame	0.693	Oklahoma	Notre Dame	.707 72-29-3	Notre Dame	no data
1984	Florida	Syracuse	0.640	BYU	Penn State	.613 58-36-3	Penn State	no data
1983	Miami	Auburn	0.702	Miami	Auburn	.688 70-33-1	Auburn	no data
1982	Penn State	Penn State	0.687	Penn State	Penn State	.646 63-34-2	Penn State	no data
1981	Penn State	Penn State	0.677	Clemson	Penn State	.679 71-33-2	Penn State	no data
1980	Oklahoma	Florida. St.	0.690	Georgia	Florida. St.	.673 70-34-0	Miami	no data
1979	Alabama	Penn State	0.668	Alabama	UCLA	.655 71-37-2	Rice	no data
1978	Oklahoma	Notre Dame	0.713	Alabama / USC	Notre Dame	.709 77-31-2	USC	no data
1977	Notre Dame	Penn State	0.653	Notre Dame	Miami	.609 66-42-2	Rice	no data
1976	USC	Missouri	0.682	Pitt	no data	no data	Missouri	no data
1975	Oklahoma	Missouri	0.651	Oklahoma	no data	no data	Missouri	no data
1974	Oklahoma	Tennessee	0.649	USC / OU	no data	no data	Iowa	no data
1973	Oklahoma	Nebraska	0.655	ND / Bama	no data	no data	Nebraska	no data
1972	USC	Auburn	0.654	USC	no data	no data	Florida	no data
1971	Nebraska	Alabama	0.682	Nebraska	no data	no data	Mississippi St	no data
1970	Nebraska	UCLA	0.640	Tx / OSU / Neb	no data	no data	USC	no data

Dr. Soren Sorenson, an assistant professor of nuclear physics at the University of Tennessee, has published annual schedule strength rankings going back to 1872. While not widely followed, Dr. Sorenson's data is listed here since it is the fourth verifiable data source along with data from the NCAA, Dunkel Index, and USA Today to identify 1982 Penn State and 2015 Alabama as the only teams in college football history who won a national title while playing what they deemed to be the toughest schedule in the country. The above grid also highlights 2006 Florida since they are acknowledged as playing the most difficult schedule by three of these sources.