Clemson Football

A National Championship Tradition

1 - Clemson was the only college football team with a perfect record in 1981 (12-0) and was declared the unanimous national champion.

2 - Clemson ranked second in the nation among public Division I football institutions in terms of graduation rate according to the 2003 NCAA report. Clemson had a 100-percent graduation rate for African-Americans (9-9) in the study.

3 - Former Clemson Head Coaches John Heisman, Frank Howard, and Jess Neely have been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. Former Tiger players Terry Kinard and Banks McFadden have also been inducted.

9 - Nine former Tigers were named to the ACC’s 50-Year Anniversary team in 2002, more than any other school.

11 - Eleven active Clemson student-athletes had their degrees when the Tigers played Tennessee in the Peach Bowl in 2004.

13 - Clemson has won 13 ACC titles, more than any other school. Clemson also has more overall wins (334) and conference wins (206) than any other school.

18 - At least 18 former Tigers have been on NFL rosters in each of the last 18 years.

19 - Nineteen former Clemson players have earned 27 total Super Bowl Championship rings since the Super Bowl began in 1966.

20 - Clemson has had 20 first-round draft selections in its history.

21 - Including the 2003 season, Clemson has had 21 years in which it has been ranked in the final Associated Press top 25.

27 - Clemson has made 27 postseason bowl appearances, including one in each of the last five years and 16 of the last 19 seasons. Clemson has 14 wins in those 27 bowl games, and ranks among the top-25 schools in NCAA history in bowl games and wins.

44 - Former Tigers have been chosen to the Pro Bowl 44 times, including a combined seven appearances for active players Trevor Pryce (Broncos) and Brian Dawkins (Eagles).

53 - Clemson has earned 53 wins over AP top-25 teams over the years, including three wins (#3 Florida State, #6 Tennessee, #24 Virginia) in 2003. Clemson has defeated at least one ranked opponent in 16 of the last 19 years.

54 - A total of 54 Tigers have earned All-America honors over the years. The program has had at least one All-American in 27 of the last 29 years.
The Department of Athletics offers nationally prominent athletic programs. Through a dedicated commitment to educational interests, a competitive athletic program, and integrity in all areas, the student-athletes, coaches, and staff strive to bring credit and recognition to Clemson University.

The mission of the Athletic Department is to sponsor a broad-based athletic program that provides educational and athletic opportunities for young men and women to grow, develop, and serve the interests of Clemson University by complementing and enhancing its diversity and quality of life.

Furthermore, the Athletic Department seeks to be a source of pride for the citizens of the State of South Carolina and to be recognized as a nationally prominent program, through consistently high levels of performance and accomplishment in athletic competitions.

The Athletic Department strives to develop student-athletes academically and athletically with the total commitment of aiding their efforts to graduate from Clemson University and advance to careers that will enable them to be productive members of society.

The Athletic Department will act in an ethical and honest manner, dedicated to compliance with all Federal, State, NCAA, Conference, and University rules and regulations.

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Clemson History

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Media Guide Credits

Credits
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Special thanks to the late Bob Bradley, whose
40 years of research made production of this guide
easier for future generations.

On the Cover
This year’s cover features six of Clemson’s top
returning players, all of whom had a major impact on
Clemson’s strong 4-0 finish in 2003. The offensive play-
ers featured are quarterback Charlie Whitehurst, who
established 33 Clemson records in 2003, offensive guard Cedric
Johnson, who will be in his third year as a starter, and wide receiver
Airese Currie, the fastest player in

college football. The defensive leaders pictured are Leroy Hill,
the nation’s #2 ranked defender in terms of tackles for
loss in 2003, Travis Pugh, who is one of the top tack-

ers in the ACC, and Maurice Fountain, one of the quick-
est defensive ends in the nation.

The back cover of this year’s media guide features
former Clemson players who are prominent in the
NFC. The players pictured are either past Super Bowl
Champions, Pro Bowl players, first-round draft selec-

tions, or 10-year veterans.

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Department over the years.

Extra Copies
Available for $15 each at the Clemson Ticket Of-

cice at Death Valley. Send a check made out to the
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SC  29633.
Clemson’s Football Heritage

Academic Excellence
- Eleven Clemson players who dressed for the Tennessee game in the 2004 Peach Bowl already had their degrees. Yusel Kelly, a current Tiger running back, earned his degree in May. That gives Tommy Bowden 31 players in his five years that have played for the Tigers after they earned their undergraduate degree. Since Bowden has been at Clemson, nearly 80 percent of the scholarship players who have stayed until their senior year have earned their degrees.
- Chad Carson and Kyle Young were first-team Academic All-Americans in 2000 and 2001. Carson joined Young in graduating from Clemson with a perfect 9-9-9 by African-Americans.
- Carson and Young were also named Clemson’s top all-around athlete of the nation’s most versatile athlete that year. He was also named the ACC 50-Year Anniversary team, more than any other school. South Carolina (15), Alabama (14), Southern California (14), Notre Dame (13), Oklahoma (12), Texas (12).

Fuller, Terry Kinard, Michael Dean Perry, William Butler, Bennie Cunningham, Jeff Davis, Steve Miller, and Charlie Whitehurst are all on preseason award candidate lists.

Bowl History
- Clemson has been to 27 bowl games in its history, among the top-25 totals in college football history. Clemson’s 14 wins are also among the top 25 in bowl victories in college football history.
- Clemson’s first bowl game was a 6-3 victory over Boston College and Frank Leahy in the 1940 Cotton Bowl. Leahy is still ranked second in college football history in winning percentage.
- Clemson won five straight bowl games between 1986-90, one of the top winning streaks in college football history. Clemson defeated Stanford, Penn State, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Illinois during the stretch.
- Clemson has beaten some of the top coaches in college football history in bowl competition. Among the list of celebrated coaches who have lost to Clemson are Joe Paterno (#2 winningest coach in college football history), and Tom Osborne (fifth-winningest coach in college football history). Clemson defeated Georgia (1981 team were eventually drafted by the NFL, leading them into the ACC school.
- Clemson has a winning record against each of the other charter members of the ACC since the league was founded in 1953. Clemson is 30-12-1 against Duke, 26-21-2 against Maryland, 29-15-1 against North Carolina, 22-21 against N.C. State, 35-7-1 against Virginia, and 42-6-1 against Wake Forest since 1953. Clemson also has a winning record against Georgia Tech (12-9) since the Yellow Jackets joined the league in 1983.
- Since the ACC was formed in 1953, Clemson has won 13 ACC titles (12 outright and one tied), more than any other school. Florida State is second in both with 304 and 181, respectively.
- Tom Osborne (fifth-winningest coach in college football history. Clemson defeated Georgia (15), Alabama (14), Southern California (14), Notre Dame (13), Oklahoma (12), Texas (12).

Championship Tradition
- The Tigers were national champions by every service in 1981, as they were the only school in the nation with a perfect record (12-0) that season. The year included three wins over top-10 teams (Georgia, Nebraska, North Carolina), the only team in college football to beat three top-10 teams in 1981. It was just the second national championship for an ACC school.
- The 1981 team had five All-Americans on its roster, including first-team selections Jeff Davis, Terry Kinard, and Perry Tuttle. Thirty-one players on the 1981 team were eventually drafted by the NFL, and 22 players on the squad eventually played in the NFL. Twenty-three different players on the 1981 roster were First-Team All-ACC selections at one time or another in their career.
- Since the ACC was formed in 1953, Clemson has more overall wins (334) and wins in ACC games (206) than any other school. North Carolina is second in both with 304 and 181, respectively.
- Clemson has a winning record against each of the other charter members of the ACC since the league was founded in 1953. Clemson is 30-12-1 against Duke, 26-21-2 against Maryland, 29-15-1 against North Carolina, 22-21 against N.C. State, 35-7-1 against Virginia, and 42-6-1 against Wake Forest since 1953. Clemson also has a winning record against Georgia Tech (12-9) since the Yellow Jackets joined the league in 1983.
- Clemson has won 13 ACC titles (12 outright and one tied), more than any other school. Florida State is second in 11. In two different eras, Clemson won three conference titles in succession. Those took place from 1965-67 and 1986-88.
Clemson posted 15 consecutive non-losing seasons between 1977-91, a conference record for that category.

Clemson won the Southern Conference title in 1940 and 1948, giving the program 15 conference crowns over the years.

**Coaching Success**

Clemson has a legendary history when it comes to coaching. Three former Tiger mentors (John Heisman, Frank Howard, Jess Neely) are already in the College Football Hall of Fame. Howard was Clemson’s coach when the ACC was founded and promptly took the Tigers to six ACC championships. No coach had more league titles than Howard during his 30-year tenure at Clemson. He concluded his career with 165 victories, and his 30-year tenure still ranks second in NCAA history for a coach serving at the same school.

Danny Ford coached Clemson to the national championship in 1981 and won six bowl games in his Clemson career, second on the all-time ACC coaching list. His 76-percent winning percentage is also second-best in ACC history. He was the consensus national coach-of-the-year in 1981 and remains the youngest coach (33) to win a national title.

Current Clemson Head Coach Tommy Bowden has continued the tradition of outstanding Tiger coaches by leading the team to bowl games each of his first five years, the only coach in Clemson history to do that. He has been named ACC Coach-of-the-Year twice in his first five years at Clemson. In 2003, he became the second Clemson coach to defeat three top-25 teams in the same year, and the second to record at least two top-10 wins in the same year.

**Death Valley**

Clemson Memorial Stadium, known as Death Valley, has been the Tigers’ home since the ACC was founded. In 2001, it was listed as the top stadium in the ACC by Sporting News. Many times in the last decade it has ranked among the top-10 football stadiums in the nation. Clemson ranked seventh in the nation in total attendance in 2000 and has been ranked among the top 20 in the nation in average attendance 21 years in a row.

Clemson sold out of season tickets for the 2004 season by July 15, 2004, an indication of interest in Tiger football for the coming season.

Memorial Stadium has been the site of many memorable games, including the first meeting of father-and-son coaches in Division I history. That contest took place in 1999 when the Bowdens met in a memorable game in Death Valley.

Death Valley has claimed 222 victims in its 62 seasons entering 2003. Clemson has a 71-percent winning percentage in the facility.

**First-Round Draft Selections**

Rod Gardner became the 20th first-round draft pick in Clemson history when he was selected as the #15 pick in the first round by the Washington Redskins in 2001. Gardner finished his career as the school’s all-time leading receiver and was third in total reception yardage.

Gardner set an example for all future Clemson football players to follow. He was a first-team All-American, a first-round draft choice, and graduated in May of 2001. Few college football players could boast of that triple that year.

Clemson had 10 players drafted in 1983, an ACC record for players drafted from the same school in one year.

Clemson has had a first-round draft choice four of the last eight years. The list includes Trevor Pryce, already a four-time Pro Bowl selection with the Denver Broncos, and Anthony Simmons, the top tackler for the Seattle Seahawks in 2000 and 2001.

Clemson has had 181 players drafted over the years, including Derrick Hamilton (San Francisco 49ers) and Donnell Washington (Green Bay Packers), who were both third-round selections in 2004.

**Hall of Fame**

Former Clemson All-American Terry Kinard was enshrined in 2001 in New York City. He was also inducted into the Clemson Ring of Honor in 2001.

Kinard was the first Clemson football player to win a national individual award. He was named the 1982 National Defensive Player-of-the-Year by CBS Sports. That year (his senior season), he was a first-team, unanimous All-American, the only unanimous All-American in Clemson history. He was named to the ACC’s 50-Year Anniversary team in 2002, and was also listed among the top-50 athletes in the history of the ACC, regardless of sport.

Clemson had a special night in New York City on December 11, 2001. That evening, Terry Kinard was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame and Kyle Young was named a recipient of a National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award. Clemson was the only school in the nation with one of each in 2001.

Three former Clemson coaches are in the College Football Hall of Fame. The list includes John Heisman (1900-03), Jess Neely (1931-39), and Frank Howard (1940-49).

**NFL Influence**

Clemson had 19 former players in the NFL during the 2003 season, the 18th-consecutive year Clemson has had at least 18 former players on NFL rosters. The 2003 list included nine different former Tigers who were either first-round draft choices, Super Bowl champions, or Pro Bowl selections.

Over the years, 19 former Clemson players have won 27 Super Bowl Championship rings. The leader is Jeff Bostic, who was a starter on three Super Bowl championship teams with the Washington Redskins. Clemson has had an alum on the Super Bowl Championship team five of the last seven years.

Trevor Pryce, an All-ACC player at Clemson in 1996, has already won two Super Bowl Championships and been a four-time Pro Bowl selection. He became the highest-paid defensive lineman in NFL history in 2001.

Clemson has had a strong influence on the linebacker position in the NFL in recent years. Recent former Tigers who have been either Pro Bowl performers, first-round draft picks, or Super Bowl champions include John Johnson, Levon Kirkland, Ed McDaniel, Anthony Simmons, and Wayne Simmons.

One of the rising stars of the NFL is Philadelphia Eagles’ strong safety Brian Dawkins. A 1996 Clemson graduate, Dawkins was an All-American on Clemson’s 1995 team when he finished the season 10th in the nation in interceptions. He became the first player in NFL history in 2002 to have a sack, an interception, a fumble recovery, and a touchdown reception in the same game. He has been named to the Pro Bowl three times in the last five seasons.
Rodney Williams quarterbacked Clemson to 32 victories and three ACC titles.

Poll Presence
- The 2003 season marked the 21st time Clemson has been ranked in the final top 25 of the Associated Press poll. Clemson's highest ranking is #1 in 1981, a ranking that was achieved on November 30, 1981 and in the final poll of that season (January 4, 1982).
- The Tigers were ranked #22 in the final AP poll of 2003, the second time under Tommy Bowden Clemson has finished with a top-25 ranking.
- Clemson once had a streak of 46 consecutive weeks ranked in the AP poll during the 1980s.
- Clemson finished in the top 20 of all final polls from 1986-91, a six-year streak. Clemson had exactly two losses in each of those six seasons.
- Clemson was ranked in the final top 20 of the AP poll six times in the 1980s. The Clemson program was fifth in the nation in winning percentage in that decade.
- Beating ranked opponents has also been a hallmark of Clemson's success. Clemson has beaten an AP ranked opponent 15 of last 18 years, including three ranked wins in 2003. Clemson defeated a #25 Virginia team in overtime, a #3-ranked Florida State team, and a #6-ranked Tennessee team in the Peach Bowl. It was the most ranked wins in one season for Clemson since 1981. Clemson has 53 wins over ranked teams in its history, including 24 over fellow ACC schools.

Prominent Former Tigers
- Dwight Clark was the MVP of the NFL in 1982. He was the recipient of "The Catch" for the San Francisco 49ers against the Dallas Cowboys in the 1981 NFC Championship game. It is still replayed on ESPN Classic every night when they introduce their "Sports Century" feature.

- Charlie Waters was a three-time Pro Bowl selection with the Dallas Cowboys. He played on two Super Bowl Championship teams before going on to a college coaching career at Oregon.
- The Perry Brothers, Michael Dean and William, were starters on Clemson's 1984 defense. Both were named to the ACC 50-Year Anniversary team in 2002. William played on Clemson's national championship team as a freshman, then on the Super Bowl Champion Chicago Bears of 1985. Michael Dean played in six Pro Bowls with Cleveland and Denver, more than any other former Tiger. Both were named ACC Player-of-the-Year during their Clemson careers, including William in 1984 and Michael Dean in 1987. They are the only brother combination in ACC history that can make that claim.
- Chester McGlockton was a four-time Pro Bowl selection during his NFL career that ran from 1992-03. He joins Trevor Pryce (4) and Michael Dean Perry (6) as former Tigers with at least four Pro Bowl appearances.

Record-Breaking Players
- Former Clemson quarterback Woodrow Dantzler became the first player in Division I college football history to pass for at least 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 yards in the same season when he collected 2,360 yards passing and 1,004 yards rushing in 2001. He finished his career as the ACC's all-time leader in quarterback rushing and ranks in the top 10 in league history in total offense. He is now with Atlanta Falcons.
- A Clemson player has led the ACC in scoring 12 times, more than any other school. The list includes two-time champion Nelson Welch, who still holds the league mark for career field goals (70).
- Clemson is known for its leaders on defense. In 1984, William Perry set the ACC career record for quarterback sacks (27). Three years later, his brother, Michael Dean Perry, broke the record with his 28th. Jeff Davis was named the ACC MVP in six consecutive years for his leadership.
- Former defensive end Lyle McCutcheon holds the league mark for career field goals (70).
- The Perry Brothers, Michael Dean and William, were starters on Clemson's 1984 defense. Both were named to the ACC 50-Year Anniversary team in 2002. William played on Clemson's national championship team as a freshman, then on the Super Bowl Champion Chicago Bears of 1985. Michael Dean played in six Pro Bowls with Cleveland and Denver, more than any other former Tiger. Both were named ACC Player-of-the-Year during their Clemson careers, including William in 1984 and Michael Dean in 1987. They are the only brother combination in ACC history that can make that claim.
- Chester McGlockton was a four-time Pro Bowl selection during his NFL career that ran from 1992-03. He joins Trevor Pryce (4) and Michael Dean Perry (6) as former Tigers with at least four Pro Bowl appearances.

Clemson Alma Mater

Where the Blue Ridge yawns its greatness
Where the Tigers play
Here the sons of dear old Clemson
Reign supreme alway.

Chorus
Dear old Clemson, we will triumph
And with all our might
That the Tigers' roar may echo
O'er the mountain height.

1981, giving Clemson three of the four times in league history a defensive player has been named the conference's best player.

Traditions
- Memorial Stadium is the center of many Clemson traditions. According to many, the Tigers have the top stadium entrance in all of sports. The team enters the stadium from the top of a hill at the East end of the stadium. Prior to running down the 100-foot hill, the team rubs Howard's Rock for inspiration. It is electrifying for the 85,000 Clemson fans who have come to root on the Tigers.
- Clemson was a military institution until 1955, and thus has many traditions with a military theme. In the early days of Death Valley, the day’s color and pageantry began with formations on the field. Today, those traditions are revisited during Military Appreciation Day, which will be held on October 23 when Clemson meets Maryland. The Senior Platoon was an elite unit that still performs at Clemson home games. They traveled with the team during the 1940s and 1950s, performing at, among other famous arenas, Fenway Park.
- Tigerama is held the Friday evening prior to Homecoming that features a pep rally, fireworks, skits, and Homecoming Pageant, all wrapped into a three-hour program in Littlejohn Coliseum. It will be held October 15 this year.

Woodrow Dantzler became the first 2,000/1,000 quarterback in NCAA history in 2001.
During the 2004 football season, Tiger fans can gear up for the big game by checking out the Game Day Page. The Game Day Page has all the latest news leading up to kickoff as well as directions to the game flashbacks to great moments in the series and more. Also available on game days are photo galleries of the action that are updated at the conclusion of each quarter that give users a feel for the game.

A new multimedia experience has also been added to ClemsonTigers.com that is sure to enhance every visit. Tiger Tracks offers fans video highlights of football games and press conferences as well as great moments in Clemson football history. Last year, visitors to ClemsonTigers.com voted on the top plays of the year and viewed video clips of each of the top vote-getters.

Football is not the only sport covered by ClemsonTigers.com; you can get rosters, coach and player bios, stats, and schedules on all of Clemson’s 19 varsity sports at ClemsonTigers.com. Fans can also read features on student-athletes, athletic trends, and Clemson’s championship tradition. News about former Tigers in the spotlight, as well as a complete listing of former student-athletes in the nation’s professional sports leagues, keep fans in the know.

ClemsonTigers.com not only brings you the most exciting and comprehensive coverage of Clemson athletics, but also exists to make your life easier. Clemson fans can purchase tickets, contribute to the IPTAY scholarship fund, or shop for the latest Tiger gear all with a click of a button.

ClemsonTigers.com is a member of the CollegeSports.com network of official athletic sites. CollegeSports.com provides internet support to over 150 schools nationwide, including the Atlantic Coast Conference.

As the official athletic web site for Clemson University athletics, ClemsonTigers.com is the only place to go for all of your Clemson sports information. From live audio broadcasts, to video highlight clips, to late breaking news, ClemsonTigers.com has you covered.
ACC Satellite Feed
ACC football highlights and interviews are available via satellite every Wednesday afternoon from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM during the 2004 season (coordinates will be announced at a later date). For more information, contact Scott McBurney, Director of ACC Video Services, at (336) 851-6062.

ACC Teleconference
The 11 ACC football coaches will be featured on a weekly teleconference each Wednesday from 11:00 AM to 12:50 PM, beginning September 1 and continuing November 17. Each coach will have 10 minutes to make an opening statement and answer questions. There will be an instant replay of each teleconference over the internet at www.theacc.com.

Listed below are the times for each head coach.

Coach Tommy Bowden ............. 11:00 AM
Coach Ted Roof ................... 11:10 AM
Coach Bobby Bowden ............. 11:20 AM
Coach Ralph Friedgen .......... 11:30 AM
Coach John Bunting ............. 11:40 AM
Coach Chuck Amato .......... 11:50 AM
Coach Larry Coker .......... 12:00 PM
Coach Chano Gailey ..... 12:10 PM
Coach Bobby Bowden .......... 12:20 PM
Coach Ted Roof .......... 12:30 PM
Coach Tommy Bowden .......... 12:40 PM

Note: The media phone number is (913) 981-5507.

Clemson Official Athletic Internet Site
ClemsonTigers.com

Credentials
We appreciate getting these as early as you know your assignment. Requests for working press and photo passes are honored from sports editors of daily newspapers along with radio and television sports directors only. Make request directly to Sam Blackman, Clemson Associate Sports Information Director. There is no room for all individual radio stations in the press box, but rather only enough room for the two networks of the participating schools.

Spouses, dates, non-workers, and anyone 16 years of age or younger are not permitted in the press box.

Entrance to Memorial Stadium
Enter through Gate 11, which is located on the press box side of the field at the top of the South Side of the stadium. If you need to pick up tickets or press passes at our press will-call, they are at the ticket office at Memorial Stadium.

Important Dates
Aug. 5 Clemson team reports
Aug. 6 First practice (conditioning)
Aug. 8 Media Day/Fan/Picture Day, 3:00 PM at South Side Concourse of Memorial Stadium
Aug. 12 First practice in pads
Aug. 19 First day of classes
Sep. 4 Wake Forest at Clemson, 3:30 PM

Postgame Interviews
The team dressing rooms are located beneath the west endzone stands, to your left from the press box. The two SIDs will escort writers wishing for postgame interviews to this area with about three minutes showing on the scoreboard clock. The Clemson dressing room is closed to all media, but Head Coach Tommy Bowden will be in his interview room (Tiger Letterman’s room), and players chosen by media members will be in their interview area (underneath west stands) for postgame comments following a short team meeting. Both coaches will hold their interviews in the Tiger Letterman’s room under the west endzone stands at Memorial Stadium. The opposing coach will go first followed by Coach Bowden.

Press Box
There are two levels to Clemson’s press box, located in the center of the club level of the South stands. The first level contains the photo deck, a photographer work room, the outside PA, stadium operations, and security, along with booths for field telephones, radio networks, and Clemson athletic officials. The second level is for the print media, with seating accommodations for 124 members of the working press. This level houses Clemson’s famous buffet and the work room.

SID Phone Numbers
SID Office: .......................... (864) 656-2114
Fax: ................................. (864) 656-0299
Press Box: .......................... (864) 654-3326

Tim Bourret Home: .......................... (864) 888-3490
Email: .................. ttimoth@clemson.edu
Sam Blackman Home: .......................... (864) 639-4400
Email: .................. blackmj@clemson.edu
Louis Garmendia Cell: .......................... (864) 506-1509
Email: .................. lgarmen@clemson.edu
Brian Hennessy Cell: .......................... (864) 986-9046
Email: .................. bhennes@Clemson.edu
Anne Miller Cell: .......................... (864) 506-5925
Email: .................. miller7@clemson.edu

Weekly Press Conference
Tommy Bowden’s weekly press conference will be held on Tuesdays during the season. The first session will be Tuesday, August 31 in the Auditorium in Clemson’s McFadden Building, the facility that is adjacent to the Jervey Athletic Center.

Our press box is equipped with 12 outside phone lines in a centrally-located area in the press box. It is the responsibility of each paper or radio network to make arrangements for telephone lines if you desire a line at your seat. Call Zelda Kleister at (864) 656-2601 to order phone lines. There are three phones available at the back of the press box for sending voice reports. The old “dark room” on the first floor of the press box has two high-speed internet lines for photographers. There are also eight high-speed internet lines in a central location in the press box for use by photographers and writers during post game. Wireless access is also available.

Telephone Installation
Our press box is equipped with 12 outside phone lines in a centrally-located area in the press box. It is the responsibility of each paper or radio network to make arrangements for telephone lines if you desire a line at your seat. Call Zelda Kleister at (864) 656-2601 to order phone lines. There are three phones available at the back of the press box for sending voice reports. The old “dark room” on the first floor of the press box has two high-speed internet lines for photographers. There are also eight high-speed internet lines in a central location in the press box for use by photographers and writers during post game. Wireless access is also available.

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The media will interview Coach Bowden between 11:00 AM and 1:45 AM. Players will be available before and after Bowden’s press conference. The conference can be accessed by phone. Just call Tim Bourret to access the teleconference.

Player interviews will be held in Vickery Hall on the Clemson campus on Mondays between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and at the McFadden Building on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. No player interviews are allowed after Wednesdays.

ClemsonTigers.com
Clemson finished the 2003 season with four consecutive victories, the first time the Tigers accomplished that feat since the 1990 season when they won their last five games. What made it a landmark set of games was the margin of victory and the level of competition during the season-ending run.

"If we had an NCAA football tournament now, Clemson probably would have been the #3 seed in the West Regional," noted Charlotte Observer writer Ron Green, Jr. after Clemson’s victory over #6 Tennessee in the Peach Bowl.

As the chart below shows, Clemson defeated #3 Florida State and Bobby Bowden, the winningest coach in Division I coaching history, and #6 Tennessee, and former national championship coach Phillip Fulmer, during the four victories. Those represent two of the top-four, highest-ranked victories in Clemson football history.

In addition to those victories, Clemson downed arch-rival South Carolina 63-17 in Columbia, the most points Clemson has ever scored against the Gamecocks and the largest margin of victory for the Tigers against South Carolina since 1900. South Carolina is coached by Lou Holtz, another mentor who has won the national championship. Clemson also defeated Duke 40-7.

The 2003 Clemson team became just the second in school history to defeat two top-10 opponents in the same season. The only other Clemson team to accomplish that feat was the 1981 National Championship Tiger team, which had three top-10 victories.

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Derrick Hamilton’s 58-yard touchdown reception late in the third quarter against the Seminoles propelled the Tigers to a 26-10 upset victory in Death Valley.

Justin Miller’s 63-yard punt return for a touchdown put the cap on a great all-around performance by the sophomore cornerback, as Clemson defeated Duke 40-7.
The 2003 Fall Finish

Clemson’s 4-0 finish brought it to a #8 final national ranking according to New York Times’s computer. The ranking was one of the computer rankings used in the BCS formula in 2003. Clemson made an 11-place jump in the rankings by virtue of its win over Tennessee in the Peach Bowl. The formula for the computer ranking puts a high priority on schedule ranking and how a team is playing at season’s end. Clemson was the highest-ranked team in the nation by the New York Times computer poll with four losses. The Tigers were ranked #22 in the final rankings according to AP and USA Today.

<table>
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Other Notes of Interest on Clemson’s Finish

• Clemson scored 19 touchdowns over the last four games and allowed just six. That included a 10-1 margin in rushing touchdowns.
• Linebacker Leroy Hill was the top tackler for Clemson over the last four games with 43 tackles, which matches his uniform number.
• Head Coach Tommy Bowden and the Tigers defeated three of the top-12 winningest active coaches in Division I football (Phillip Fulmer (3rd), Bobby Bowden (4th), Lou Holtz (12th)).
• Bowden became the first coach in history to defeat two coaches in the same month who had already reached at least 200 wins (Bowden, Holtz).
• Quarterback Charlie Whitehurst joined former Tiger Homer Jordan as the only Clemson quarterbacks to start two victories over top-10 teams in the same season. During the last four games, Whitehurst completed 84 of 133 passes for 1,151 yards and eight touchdowns. That is a 63.2 completion percentage and 288 passing yards per game. He also gained 306 yards per game in total offense during the four-game run.
• Running back Chad Jasmin was also important in the streak, as he gained 307 yards rushing in 58 attempts, a 5.3 average. He scored four touchdowns in the victory at South Carolina and was named the Offensive MVP of the Peach Bowl.

Clemson’s Stats in the Last Four Games

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<th>Category</th>
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<th>Opp.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Points</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Touchdowns</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Plays-Total Offense</td>
<td>297-1852</td>
<td>278-1,284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yards/Play</td>
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<td>Rushing Attempts-Yards</td>
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<td>Rushing Touchdowns</td>
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<td>Yards/Rush</td>
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<td>Passing Yards</td>
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<td>Pass Completions-Attempts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completion %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing Efficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing Yards/Game</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>241</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Downs</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>77</td>
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Ben Hall caught a 39-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter at South Carolina.

Jamaal Fudge had two interceptions that led to scores in the 63-17 win at South Carolina.

Chad Jasmin scored four touchdowns against South Carolina in Columbia, the first Tiger to score four touchdowns in a game against the Gamecocks since 1918.

Duane Coleman’s touchdown gave Clemson early momentum in the Peach Bowl.

Justin Miller and the defense kept Tennessee off the scoreboard in the second half.

Chad Jasmin scored four touchdowns against South Carolina in Columbia, the first Tiger to score four touchdowns in a game against the Gamecocks since 1918.
Clemson’s 2003 football season could not have ended on a more positive note. The Tigers won each of their last four games, one of just nine teams entering 2004 on a four-game winning streak. And, the Tigers did not just sneak by, as the four victories were recorded by a combined 108 points. Only Associated Press National Champion Southern California had an equal victory margin over the last four games of the season.

Those victories were not against lower echelon teams. The Tigers defeated #3 Florida State by a score of 26-10 to start the streak, the highest-ranked team Clemson has defeated in its history. The regular season concluded with a 63-17 victory over rival South Carolina, Clemson’s highest point total in the history of the series and greatest victory margin since 1900.

In the final game, Clemson earned a 27-14 victory over #6 Tennessee in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, the highest-ranked team Clemson has defeated in a bowl game since the Tigers won the 1981 National Championship with a victory over #4 Nebraska in the Orange Bowl.

Combined with a midseason victory over #24 Virginia, the 2003 Tigers recorded three top-25 wins, the most in one season since the 1981 National Championship team. It was just the second Clemson season in which the Tigers recorded a pair of top-10 wins.

The run of success to conclude the season brought the Tigers to a #22 final national ranking in the two major polls and a #8 final ranking in the New York Times Computer. Head Coach Tommy Bowden was pleased with his team’s progress over the course of the season, but aspires to reach higher goals.

“We were satisfied with the way we played over the last part of the season, but we strive for more,” said Bowden, who was named ACC Coach-of-the-Year in 2003, the second time he has won the award in his five years at Clemson. “We certainly have higher goals for this program. We want to reach BCS bowls, have a higher final national ranking, and win the Atlantic Coast Conference Championship.”

Bowden is not saying those are specific goals for this season, but making consistent progress towards those eventual achievements through consistency is a goal for 2004. “We have to be more consistent from one season to the next. The way we finished last year, some people were putting the ‘Clemson’s Back’ headline on our season. We won’t be back until we show more consistency. We need to have consistency in terms of nine and 10-win seasons, and contend for BCS bowls. That is what we strive for at Clemson.”

Early indications show that Clemson will be ranked among the preseason top-25 teams in the nation according to many services, rankings Clemson has not seen in the preseason since 2001, when Clemson was coming off a top-15 final ranking in 2000. Clemson does return seven starters on offense and defense, and has a higher point total in history.

But, Bowden must replace some talented players who were outstanding leaders. The senior class of 2003 will be remembered for its character and ability to overcome adversity. A late-season loss to Wake Forest could have been devastating; but instead, it became a rallying point.

“We lost some talented players on both sides of the ball, especially at wide receiver and the defensive line,” said Bowden. “You can evaluate the losses by looking at the statistics. But, it is hard to measure the impact from a leadership standpoint. We lost some seniors from last year who might not have had a lot of sacks or scored a lot of touchdowns, but they had a huge impact on our season.”

Three of the those players were Tony Elliott, DeJuan Polk, and Gregory Walker, the three permanent captains for the 2003 season. “Our captains did a great job last year,” stated Bowden. “They had the respect of their teammates and set a great example for the rest of the team. Now we need some seniors on the 2004 team to step up from a leadership standpoint just as the seniors of 2003 did. That is always an unknown heading into a season.”

Two players who could have provided leadership and production on the field in 2004 were wide receiver Derrick Hamilton and defensive tackle Donnell Washington; but both opted to enter the NFL Draft after their red-shirt junior seasons and were both third-round selections. Hamilton was Second-Team All-ACC as a receiver and specialist. He left Clemson as the school’s all-time leader in all-purpose yardage, kickoff return yards, and total receptions. Washington was the 2003 defensive-line leader in terms of tackles, and he ranked third on the entire team in tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Other significant offensive losses from 2003 include wide receiver Kevin Youngblood, the team’s top receiver in 2003 with 70 catches and the #5 receiver in Clemson history, and multiple-year offensive-line starters William Henry and Walker.

Clemson’s starting tackles. Walker was a Second-Team All-ACC selection last year and signed a free agent contract with the New York Giants.

Other significant losses on defense include John Leake, who had 131 tackles last year and 448 for his career, fifth-most in Clemson history, and defensive linemen Khaleed Vaughn and Polk. Vaughn was a three-year starter at defensive end, while Polk started every game a year ago.

Based on the losses listed above, Bowden must have players step up at wide receiver and the defensive line immediately. Hamilton and Youngblood combined for 132 receptions, 1,923 yards, and 12 touchdowns last year alone, while the three defensive linemen combined for 142 tackles, including 23 behind the line of scrimmage.

“We must replace some outstanding players from last year,” said Bowden. “You can see by the depth chart that inexperienced wide receivers and defensive linemen will have to step up this year. In our system, those are very important areas of the team. The four starters we lost on offense were a big reason we set the school record for total offense last year, and those four starters we lost on defense were a big reason we ranked in the top 20 in the nation in scoring defense.”

While Bowden will miss players of high ability and character off his 2003 team, he is pleased with the return of many talented athletes. His offense will feature quarterback Charlie Whitehurst, just the second ACC signal-caller in history to reach 5,000 passing yards by the end of his sophomore season. The defense will be led by All-America candidate Leroy Hill, who came from obscurity to rank second in the nation in tackles for loss (27) and fifth in solo tackles in 2003.

Both 2004 leaders performed at a high level during Clemson’s four-game winning streak to end...
the season. Whitehurst threw for 288 yards per game and eight touchdowns in the four-game winning streak to close the campaign, while Hill recorded 43 total tackles, including seven tackles for loss over the same period.

“Charlie and Leroy are certainly legitimate candidates for postseason honors this coming year,” remarked Bowden. “They finished strong and had outstanding years for us last season. But, we will look for them to continue their improvement in 2004. Both of them have great ability and have shown outstanding team leadership as underclassmen.”

Whitehurst was listed on many preseason Heisman Trophy candidate lists, while Hill is listed among the top linebackers in the nation as a Butkus Award candidate.

Bowden has other all-star candidates on both sides of the football. Cedric Johnson will be in his third season as a starter on the offensive line. A starter in all 13 games who played 850 total snaps, Johnson will be an anchor of the line from the left-guard position. Aireese Currie, who had 43 catches in an injury-plagued junior season, will be the leader of the receiving corp. With a 10.22 time in the 100m for the Clemson track team during the spring of 2004, he is regarded as one of the fastest athletes in college football.

Bowden has the luxury of his top returning rusher from each of the last two seasons. Duane Coleman led the way last year with 615 yards, and he also added 309 yards as a receiver out of the backfield. He joined Travis Zachery as the only players in Clemson history to rush for at least 600 yards and reach at least 300 receiving yards in the same season. Yusef Kelly, who has already earned his undergraduate degree, was healthy for just one complete game last year, an 88-yard performance in the overtime victory against Virginia. He led the team in rushing in 2002 and could have a renaissance season similar to the one graduate student Chad Jasmin had in 2003.

Bowden has six of his top seven linebackers and defensive backs returning in 2004. Justin Miller will join Hill as a postseason honors candidate as a cornerback and a kick returner. Clemson returns all four starters in the secondary for the first time in six years, giving the Tigers one of the top pass-defending units in the nation. The unit is ranked second-best in the nation by Sporting News. Safeties Jamaal Fudge and Travis Pugh both were over 100 tackles last year. Cornerback Tye Hill, the ACC 60m indoor and 100m outdoor track champion, returns after starting 11 games opposite Miller at cornerback.

Bowden must replace Clemson career scoring leader and placekicker Aaron Hunt. The 2003 senior booted four field goals in Clemson’s landmark victory over Florida State and finished his career with a school-record 329 points. Cole Chason, who outpointed Tennessee All-American Dustin Colquitt in the Peach Bowl, returns as the starting punter as a sophomore.

Offense
(7 returning starters, 28 returning lettermen)

Clemson established a school record for total offense in a season with 5,467 yards in 2003, an average of 420.5 yards per game. Last year’s squad set a school record for passing yards in a season in the process, recording 3,687 yards through the air (283.6 per game). Clemson ranked 16th in the nation in passing yards, its highest national ranking in that category in history.

Despite the impressive numbers, especially through the air, Whitehurst is not sitting pat; he strives for more. “We still would like to be more balanced and get to that 2,000-yard rushing figure for a season. We improved from a rushing standpoint last year because we got tougher in short yardage after we ran more I-formation. We developed some competition through depth in the offensive line. But, there is still a lot of work to be done in our running game. That is an area we continued to work on in the spring.”

“Charlie had an outstanding sophomore year,” said Bowden. “He played consistently and showed improvement over the course of the season. But, he has another level which he will achieve with more and more experience. He was not a highly-recruited player out of high school due to an injury in his senior year. But, he has worked hard and is very coachable.”

The Tiger record for touchdown passes in one game is four, which Whitehurst has already done four times. He is Clemson’s career leader in passing efficiency and completion percentage, and is already third in school history in passing yardage. He quarterbacked Clemson to two wins over top-10 teams within the last four games of 2003, the first Tiger to do that since Homer Jordan in 1981.

Whitehurst will be backed up by red-shirt sophomore Will Proctor, a native of Orlando, FL who played in five games as a reserve wideout last year. Bowden had three of the top-100 receivers in the nation on a receptions-per-game basis last year;
Clemson opens the season September 4 with a home game against Wake Forest. It will be the latest sea- son opener on the calendar for the Tigers since 1999. The Demon Deacons are the last team to defeat Clemson, as the Tigers won their last four of the 2003 sea- son by a combined 108 points, leading to a #22 final na- tional ranking. Wake Forest defeated Clemson 45-17 in Winston-Salem on November 1, 2003.

Clemson will then face Georgia Tech in week two (September 11), also at Death Valley. This is the first time since the 1965 season that Clemson has played two ACC games to open the schedule. That year, Clemson played N.C. State at home and at Virginia to open the season. The 2004 schedule will mark the first time Clemson has played two home games against league opponents to open the season since 1958, when Frank Howard’s team opened the season with home victories against Death Valley over Virginia and North Carolina.

The Tigers will travel to College Station, TX to face Texas A&M on September 18. It will be Clemson’s first game with the Aggies since 1974, when Clemson lost to 220 Texas A&M on the road by a score of 24-0 in the season opener. It is the first of a two-game series be- tween Texas A&M and Clemson. The Aggies are sched- uled to play at Clemson on September 3, 2005.

Clemson’s fourth game of the year will be at Florida State. The Tigers defeated a third-ranked Seminole team at Clemson last season by a 26-10 score. Clemson has not won in Tallahassee since 1989.

The Tigers will have October 2 off, then will face Virginia in Charlottesville for a Thursday night game. It will be Clemson’s third-straight road game, the first time Clemson has played three straight road games since 1994. The contest will be televised nationally by ESPN. Clemson defeated #24 Virginia 30-27 in overtime last year, and each of the last three meetings between the two schools have been decided by five points or less, including two on plays within the last five seconds.

Clemson will return home on October 16 to face Utah State (Homecoming) for the first time in history. It will be Clemson’s first home game in 39 days. This is the longest stretch without a home game during the regular season since 1984. Utah State is a member of the Sun Belt Conference, the same league as 2003 opponent Middle Tennessee.

Clemson concludes a three-game homestand with league games against Maryland (October 23) and N.C. State (October 30), two teams that defeated the Ti- gers in 2003. Clemson will then go back on the road to face first-year ACC school Miami (FL) in the Orange Bowl. Clemson has not played Miami since 1956, but the Tigers have played in their stadium. Clemson won the 1982 Or- ange Bowl by a 22-15 score over Nebraska to win the 1981 National Championship. It will be Clemson’s first game in that facility since that triumph.

Clemson finishes its road schedule at Duke. The Tigers have defeated the Blue Devils all five years Tommy Bowden has been the head coach at Clemson, but the last meeting in Durham was a narrow 34-31 Tiger victory.

Clemson concludes the season against arch-rival South Carolina at Memorial Stadium on November 20. The Tigers have won six of the last seven meetings be- tween the two teams overall and each of the last three played at Death Valley.

Clemson returns its top two fullbacks from last year in Cliff Harrell and Steven Jackson. Harrell is a 245-pounder who carried the ball just three times last year, but started six games and played in 13. Jackson did not carry the ball all season, but com- bined with Harrell to be major reasons the Tigers improved in short yardage last season. Jackson is also one of the top Tiger defenders on kickoff cover- age.

And speaking of blocking, the Tigers return both starting offensive guards, the starting center, and two tight ends with starting experience. Bowden was successful in spreading out the playing time along the offensive line last year. For the first time since he came to Clemson in 1999, the Tigers were truly two-deep across the front.

Leading the line in 2004 will be Johnson, a red- shirt senior offensive guard. The all-star candidate was Clemson’s highest-graded offensive lineman over the course of the season with an 85.8 percent grade in starting all 13 games. He has started 25 of the 26 games over the last two years and appeared in over 1,600 plays. He graded in the 80s in 12 of the 13 games last year and was also Clemson’s high- est-rated lineman in six games. Freshman Bran- don Pilgrim, who played 145 snaps in 11 games as a first-year freshman, most by any Clemson first year freshman offensive lineman since 1975, will back up Johnson.

Also returning as starters for 2004 are Tommy Sharpe at center and Nathan Bennett at right guard. Sharpe is an original walk-on from Albany, GA who has been a starter in 16 of the 18 starts for Whitehurst. He will again be the front-runner at cen- ter this year. He ranked second on the team in knockdown blocks (56), a category he led in four different games. He will be challenged for the first- team position by Dustin Fry, a 315-pound sopho- more who made strong improvement over the course of his freshman season.

Bennett started seven of the 13 games last year and was statistically considered the starter for the course of the season; but Chip Myrick started six of the last seven. Myrick was listed as the starter...
at the end of spring practice, but both will be in another battle for that starting position in 2004. Bennett had a season-high 12 knockdowns in the win over Florida State, while Myrick had a grade of at least 80 percent in seven of his 13 games, including a 91 percent grade in the overtime victory over Virginia.

Bowden must replace both his starting tackles, a worrisome proposition for any head coach. Roman Fry and Marion Dukes are the leading candidates to serve as left and right tackles, respectively, as a result of their contributions in a reserve role last year. Roman Fry (no relation to Dustin) is a 295-pound red-shirt sophomore from Ohio who averaged 23 snaps per game in 2003. He played a significant role in Clemson’s wins over Florida State, Duke, South Carolina, and Tennessee, as he played 83 snaps in those victories combined. Dukes played 97 plays in 10 games as a first-year freshman. Brad Lee and Tim DeBeer look to serve as backup tackles in 2004.

The tight end position is in great hands with the return of senior Ben Hall and junior Bobby Williamson, both of whom have served as starters over the course of their respective careers. Williamson led the Tiger tight ends in receptions last year with 12 for 105 yards, while Hall led the team in that category in 2001 as a freshman. Hall, who is listed as the starter entering the fall, had three catches last year, but had a 39-yard touchdown reception at South Carolina to key Clemson’s first quarter offensive explosion. Kevin Burnette and Thomas Hunter are two more returning lettermen at tight end.

Defense (7 returning starters, 24 returning lettermen)

Clemson made great strides defensively in comparison to 2002 and over the course of the 2003 season. Clemson finished the season 20th in the nation in scoring defense, its highest ranking in that important category in six years. The Tigers yielded just 336 yards per game, including just 204.5 yards per game passing, second-best in the ACC.

Clemson was especially stingy over the last four games of the season when it gave up just 12 points per game and 321 yards per game, including just 80 yards per game on the ground. The Tigers gave up just six touchdowns over the last four contests.

Again, while the numbers were impressive, especially at the conclusion of the season, Bowden strives for more. “We have to get to the point where we are creating more turnovers. To play at a high level and win championships, you have to be outstanding on defense and create easy opportunities for your offense. Most of the time you do that by creating turnovers and giving your offense a short field.”

The leader of Clemson’s defense is senior inside linebacker Leroy Hill. An unknown who had never started a game entering the 2003 season, Hill ranked in the top 10 in the nation in both tackles for loss and first hits. In addition to his mention among Butkus candidates, Hill is on the preseason list for the Lombardi Award and the Nagurski Award.

“Leroy reminds me of Keith Adams in that his motor never stops,” said Bowden. “He has the quickness and toughness to be one of the best in the nation. He comes to play every day and will be one of our team leaders this season.”

Hill, Clemson’s only First-Team All-ACC selection who was third in the voting for league defensive player-of-the-year honors, had 145 tackles last year to lead the team after he had recorded just 60 combined tackles in his first two years. His 27 tackles for loss in 2003 tied for second-most in Clemson history, trailing only the 35 recorded by the aforementioned Adams, who also wore #43 at Clemson. Adams is now in the NFL with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Hill will be the first to say that 2003 senior John Leake had a big impact on his improvement. The native of Texas, who finished his career in the top five in Clemson history in tackles, will be missed. Many young but talented players will be vying for Leake’s vacant starting position.

Sophomore Anthony Waters is certainly a strong candidate. The 6’3”, 235-pounder had 35 tackles as Leake’s backup last year and has shown the athleticism to be a factor on Clemson’s defense this season. Roosevelt Nelson and David Dunham are two other inside linebackers in the mix for 2004. Nelson has earned two letters as a reserve, mostly on special teams, while Dunham made an in-season move from fullback to linebacker a success story. He recovered a fumble in the Clemson endzone on the Tar Heels’ last possession to preserve a Tiger victory last year. Red-shirt freshman Nick Watkins, a standout in practice last year as a first-year freshman, will also challenge for playing time in 2004 at linebacker.

The strongest aspect of Clemson’s defense should be the secondary. Third-year defensive coordinator John Lovett, who also tutors the defensive backs, has brought Clemson’s pass defense to another level since he took over in 2002. The Tigers were second in the ACC in passing yards allowed and second in interceptions last season. All four starters return to the secondary, including three who started all 13 games.

Miller should be considered among the top cornerbacks in the nation in 2004. He had 15 passes defended to lead the Tigers and now has 32 for his first two years, more than halfway to Donnell Woolford’s career record (54). Also an excellent return man, Miller had 54 tackles, 45 of which were first hits. He had a strong performance in the Peach Bowl when he had two pass breakups, seven tackles, and his first career sack.

Also returning as a starting cornerback is Tye Hill (no relation to Leroy Hill). The junior moved from running back to cornerback last year and it paid off for the defense. He had 37 tackles and two interceptions. His theft on the second defensive series of the Florida State game set the tone for the contest in the Clemson victory over the #3 Seminoles. He is also one of the top performers on the Clemson men’s track team, as he was the 60m indoor and 100m outdoor ACC champion in 2004.

Robert Reese and Sergio Gilliam, a pair of young and athletic players, will provide backup strength at corner. C.J. Gaddis is one of the top athletes on the team, as he played half of the spring at quarterback and half in the secondary. Also a member of the Clemson baseball team, Gaddis will get playing time at cornerback in the fall.

Clemson is also very experienced at the safety positions. Fudge started all 13 games at rover and finished the season with 116 tackles, third-most on the team and second-most in the ACC among sophomores. Just 5’10” and 190 pounds, Fudge is one of the hardest hitters on the team, as he demonstrated in the win over Virginia when he jarred the ball loose in the endzone from All-ACC tight end Heath Miller, a key to Clemson’s overtime triumph.

Pugh is the returning starter at free safety. He was fourth on the team and third among returnees in tackles (102). He had 77 first hits and 10 passes defended as a starter in all 13 games last year. He played 821 snaps, second-most on the team. He had a three-game streak of double-figure tackle games late in the season, including the victory over Florida State.

The backups at safety include Roy Walker, a 6’3” rover who red-shirted the 2003 season, and Tavaghn Monts, a 6’2” athlete who made 15 tackles and played 90 snaps on defense. Monts was the leading tackler in the Spring Game.

Clemson’s defensive line must replace three starters from a group that improved from a rushing defense stance over the course of the season. Florida State gained just 11 net yards rushing against the Tigers last year, the low figure by a Bobby Bowden coached Seminole team.

Maurice Fountain is the only returning starter on the defensive line. The athletic 6’4”, 260-pounder started eight games last season after J.J. Howard suffered a torn ACL. Fountain had 39 tackles, including six tackles for loss and two sacks in 2003. He ranked second on the team in quarterback pressures (17).

Seniors Vontrell Jamison and Eric Coleman have never started a game, but they played a combined 604 snaps on defense last year, and are
primed and ready for a frontline role. Coleman, a native of Charlottesville, VA, had 34 tackles, including seven tackles for loss, last year. He finished the year strong, as he had a caused fumble, a pass deflection, and a pair of tackles against Tennessee. He was Clemson’s most productive interior defensive lineman in that game.

Jamison is a 6’7”, 280-pounder who played 298 snaps at defensive end last year and finished with 27 tackles, including a pair of sacks. He also benefitted from playing-time standpoint by Howard’s misfortune. Jamison had at least one tackle in 11 of the 13 games as a reserve last year.

Joining Coleman in the middle could be red-shirt junior Trey Tate. The 265-pounder from Gaffney, SC had 25 tackles a year ago, including a sack of N.C. State quarterback Philip Rivers. Competing for playing time in the defensive line will also be junior-college transfer Cory Groover and sophomore Donnell Clark.

Pressuring Jamison for playing time will be 6’5” Gaines Adams and 6’4” Charles Bennett. Adams, a red-shirt sophomore, had moments of brilliance last year and had 15 total tackles, including four tackles behind the line of scrimmage. Bennett made excellent use of the bowl practices and had a breakout game against Tennessee. He added two sacks in the Spring Game and is listed as starting defensive end.

Brandon Cannon is another young defensive end who could see playing time in 2004. Joining Coleman in the middle could be red-shirt junior Trey Tate. The 265-pounder from Gaffney, SC had 25 tackles a year ago, including a sack of N.C. State quarterback Philip Rivers. Competing for playing time in the defensive line will also be junior-college transfer Cory Groover and sophomore Donnell Clark.

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**Special Teams**

Clemson must replace its all-time leading scorer leader in 2003 senior placekicker Aaron Hunt, but the Tigers return starting punter Cole Chason and one of the top return men in the ACC in Miller. Chason had a modest 38.6 punting average a year ago, but he posted a 36.5 net figure. He had 19 punts inside the 20 and just nine touchbacks. The native of Roswell, GA showed improvement over the course of the season, culminating in a 42-yard average on five punts against Tennessee in the Peach Bowl. He was named Clemson’s Special Teams Player-of-the-Game for that performance.

Jad Dean is a candidate to replace Hunt, Clemson’s starting placekicker the last four years. Dean did not attempt a field goal or PAT last season, but showed his leg strength while handling kickoffs. Clemson led the ACC in kickoff return coverage, as 27 of Dean’s 74 kickoffs were touchbacks, the most by a Tiger kicker since 1998. Opponents started at their own 20 or worse 42 of 74 kickoffs (57 percent), an improvement from 31 percent in 2002. Dean made 42-43 extra points and 9-12 field goals his senior year at Greenwood (SC) High School.

Clemson led the ACC and ranked second in the nation in kickoff returns last year with a 27.7 figure. Derrick Hamilton, Clemson’s career leader in goals his senior year at Greenwood (SC) High School.

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