

Alabama Becomes the First AP National Champion to Lose to Weekly No. 1—and later be Season's National Champion

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Back on Nov. 5, 2011, a day before the 143rd anniversary of the initial college football game between Rutgers and Princeton, with the former winning 6-goals to 4-goals; the biggest game of the most recently played season took place.

It could have resembled the founding game of the sport we know as college football—as the only scoring, like the first game, was registered by the number of goals made.

LSU, the nation's top ranked team at the time traveled to the state of Alabama to meet SEC foe, the Crimson Tide.

Since the 1936 season, when Associated Press (AP) Sports Editor, Alan Gould began his weekly ranking of the top teams across the country; in what has turned in an annual event: the naming of the wire-service's annual National Champion. Over the past 76-college football seasons; just 27 major colleges have earned at least one title.

As the 2011 season would play-out; the same two teams would meet to decide which one would be the sport's national champion.

It was a toss-up as each team had their share of reasons for wanting to claim the AP National Championship.

From the opening series; the Crimson Tide would take control and thus would earn the 2011 National Championship 21-0 as it dominated previously undefeated and top-ranked LSU. It would be a record-tying eight crowns for the school.

This equals the number of championships won by Notre Dame with the Oklahoma just a title behind with 7 No. 1 finishes in third place.

Teams that Won an AP Title

- 8 Alabama
- 8 Notre Dame
- 7 Oklahoma
- 5 Miami(FL)
- Southern
- 5 California
- 4 Minnesota
- 4 Nebraska
- 4 Ohio State
- 3 Florida
- 3 Texas

- 2 Army
- 2 Auburn
- 2 Florida State
- 2 Louisiana State
- 2 Michigan
- 2 Penn State
- 2 Pittsburgh
- 2 Tennessee
- 1 Brigham Young
- 1 Clemson
- 1 Colorado
- 1 Georgia
- 1 Maryland
- 1 Michigan State
- 1 Syracuse
- 1 Texas Christian
- 1 Texas A&M

Not every team that would be voted National Champion would hold the top-spot in the weekly rankings over the course of its schedule.

Starting with the first game (in 1946 a scoreless tie between Notre Dame and Army) when a game was played by a weekly No. 1 team and the eventual National Champion; there has been 27 games.

In 24 contests, AP's National Champion would come victorious 22 times against the poll's top rank team with a pair of games ending in a tie.

When the Crimson Tide lost to No.1 LSU back in November and then would become the eventual National Champion...they became the first team to suffer a defeat at the hands of a weekly AP No.1 and would later earn the Poll's top position.

Below is a list of games when an eventual National Champion played a respective season's weekly No. 1 teams and then the former team being the nation's top team for that season.

	National Champion	Meeting	Weekly AP #1	
Season	National Champion	Weekly No.1	No.1's Final Rank	Score
1946	Notre Dame	Army	2	0-0
1960	Minnesota	Iowa	3	27-10
1963	Texas	Oklahoma	9	28-7
1964	Arkansas	Texas	5	14-13
1966	Notre Dame	Michigan State	1	10-10
1967	USC	UCLA	NR	21-20
1968	Ohio State	Purdue	10	13-0

1973	Notre Dame	Alabama	4	24-23
1977	Notre Dame	Texas (Cotton)	4	38-10
1978	Alabama	Penn State	4	14-7
1978	USC	Alabama	1	24-14
1982	Penn State	Georgia	4	27-23
1983	Miami FL	Nebraska	2	31-30
1985	Oklahoma	Penn State	3	25-10
1986	Penn State	Miami FL	2	14-10
1987	Miami FL	Oklahoma	3	20-14
1988	Notre Dame	Miami FL	2	31-30
1989	Miami FL	Notre Dame	2	27-10
1990	Georgia Tech	Virginia	23	41-38
1991	Miami FL	Florida State	4	17-16
1992	Alabama	Miami FL	3	34-13
1996	Florida	Florida State (Sugar)	3	52-24
2000	Oklahoma	Nebraska	8	31-14
2002	Ohio State	Miami FL	2	31-24
2005	Texas	USC	2	41-38
2006	Florida	Ohio State	2	41-14
2011	Alabama	LSU	2	6-9