

Only survivors left after college football season

Analysis by Jeff Goodwin
 Special to the Daily Nebraskan
 September is almost upon us and with it the dawning of another football season. Calling the collegiate national champion in August is a little like predicting the winner of World War III — there won't be a winner, only a survivor. Bearing that in mind, here's the way it could turn out.

1. Auburn. The War Eagles/Tigers/Plainsmen have a decided disadvantage in that they play in the Southeastern Conference, probably the toughest conference in the country last year. They also must play a nonconference schedule that includes defending national champion Miami and the always tough Texas Longhorns. But this will serve to steel them for the battles of October and November. After all, if you can beat the Longhorns in Austin, beating Alabama in Birmingham is a piece of cake.

2. Clemson. The Tigers have the best record in the country

over the last three years. All of which is proof that crime does pay.

At least up to a point. True, the Tigers couldn't go to a bowl last year because of recruiting violations. But the recent Supreme Court decision does open the way for them to be on television, and its only a matter of time before some outlaw school challenges the NCAA's authority to regulate bowl games.

The Tigers have won with defense over the last three years and this year should be no exception.

3. Iowa. The Hawks will soar in '84. That's what everyone in Iowa City thinks these days anyway and with good reason. Quarterback Chuck Long leads an offense that averaged 470 yards a game last year. Linebacker Larry Station from Omaha Central leads the defense.

In short, everything's coming up roses for the Hawks.



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