

The background of the entire image is a dense, colorful collage of various college football logos and mascots. At the top, there are logos for Miami (M), Alabama (A), and Tulane (TULANE). To the right, there's a green alligator mascot and a red 'LSU' logo. Below these, on the left, is a blue and white 'Y' logo and a red 'M' logo. In the center, the title 'Who Was the Best CFP Era Team?' is written in large white letters on a green field background with white yard lines. Below the title, the author's name 'By Tom Zwiller' is written in black. At the bottom, there are logos for Pitt (Pitt), Ole Miss (Ole Miss), and a red 'C' logo. On the right side, there's a red 'V' logo and a red 'C' logo. At the bottom right, there's a red 'C' logo and a red 'L' logo. The collage also includes a blue and white 'Pitt' logo, a red 'C' logo, and a red 'L' logo. The overall theme is college football, specifically focusing on the CFP era.

Who Was the Best CFP Era Team?

By Tom Zwiller

Premise

Historically, college football has had a hard time determining a “national champion”

- **Began in 1869 when Princeton and Rutgers “split” a title (NCAA, 114)**
- **Bowl Championship Series (BCS) began in 1998 (NCAA, 119)**
- **The College Football Playoff (CFP) began in 2014 (NCAA, 119)**
 - **The format has since been updated**



Methodology

Imported and cleaned data from the old CFP era

- **And ran some calculations**

$$\text{Team A Offense Rating} = (\text{Passing Atts} * -2.2) + (\text{Passing Comp} * 3.7) + \frac{\text{Passing Yards}}{4} + (\text{Passing TD} * 11.3) + (\text{Rush Atts} * -1.5) + (\text{Rush Yards} * .50) + (\text{Rushing TD} * 15.9) + (\text{Turnovers} * 14.1)$$

- **This equation can also be applied the teams' defensive statistics to generate a defensive rating.**

Methodology

Two more equations were needed

Team A Net Rating = Team A Offense Rating – Team A Defense Rating

$$\text{Team A Chance to Win Game} = \frac{1}{1 + 10^{\text{Team B Rating} - \text{Team A Rating}/400}}$$

The second equation is derived from Arpad Elo's Elo equation¹, which is used to rank and evaluate chess players

² Stankovic, S. (2023, July 25). Elo rating system. Medium. <https://stanislav-stankovic.medium.com/elo-rating-system-6196cc59941e>











Results

Team	Year	Wins	Champion? ²	O.Rating	D.Rating	N.Rating	Rank
	2018	15	Yes	207.28	26.79	180.49	1
	2019	13	No	202.88	27.65	175.23	2
	2019	14	No	205.17	33.8	171.37	3
	2023	12	No	226.29	69.3	156.99	4
	2014	12	No	176.64	22.58	154.06	5
	2019	15	Yes	223	70.61	152.39	6
	2020	11	Yes	215.83	64.82	151.01	7
	2020	10	No	182.91	34.01	148.9	8
	2019	11	No	197.26	51.25	146.01	9
	2017	13	Yes	153.26	22.69	130.57	10

² Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, October 6). College football playoff national championship. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_Football_Playoff_National_Championship

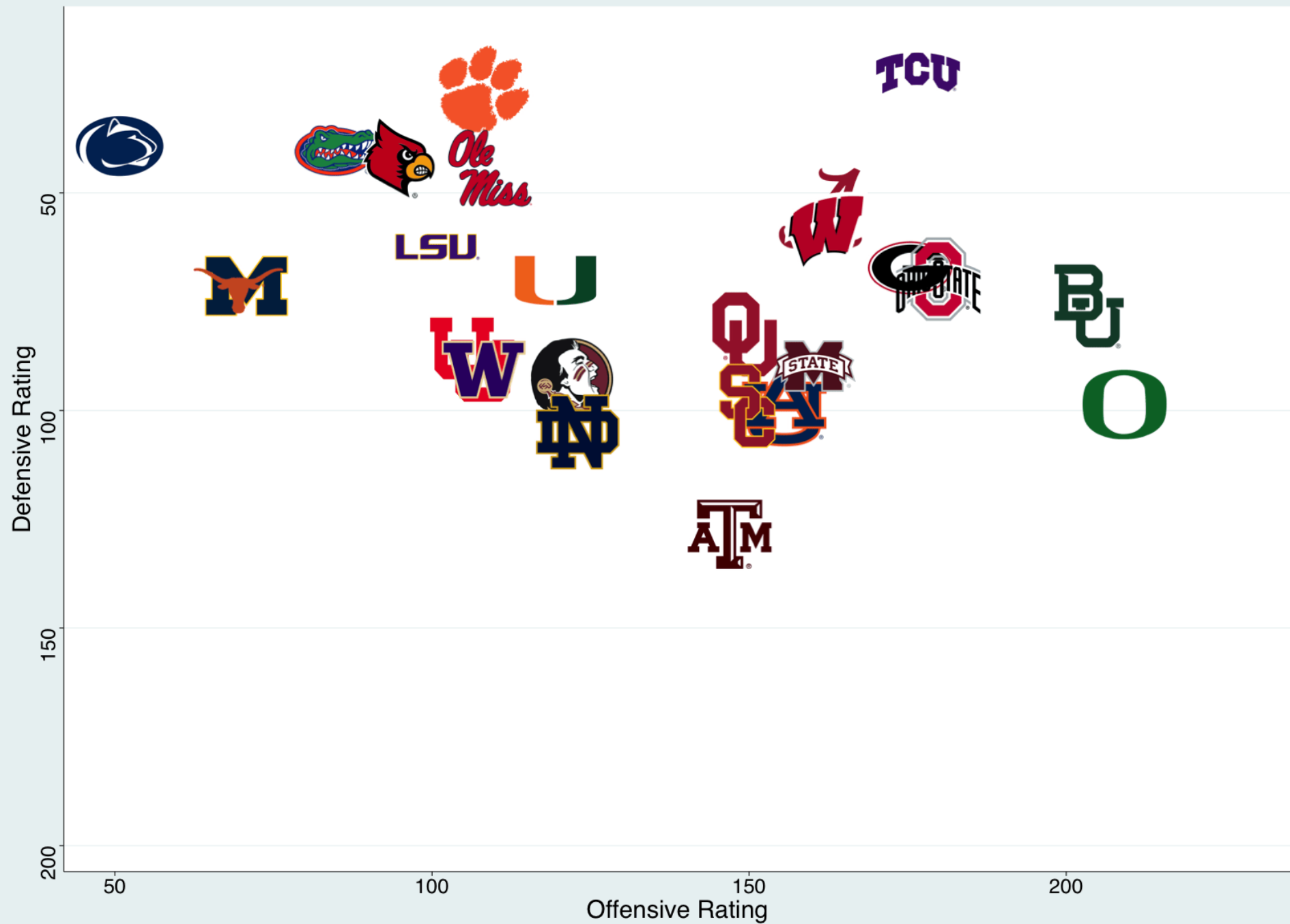
Results Cont.

Team	Wins	Championships ²	CFP Appearances ²	O.Rating	D.Rating	N.Rating	Rank
	11.4	1	5	178.75	59.33	119.42	1
	12.5	3	8	167.81	49.11	118.69	2
	11.9	2	6	150.45	43.11	107.33	3
	11.3	2	3	148.02	57.25	90.76	4
	10.1	0	4	183.16	101.88	81.28	5
	8.9	0	0	116.8	47.94	68.59	6
	9.4	1	3	125.83	58.74	67.08	7
	9.0	0	1	168.88	105.71	63.16	8
	9.5	0	2	138.29	77.07	61.31	9
	9.0	1	1	143.45	84.86	58.59	10

² Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, October 6). College football playoff national championship. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_Football_Playoff_National_Championship

Year 2014



Works Cited

NCAA. (n.d.). Football bowl subdivision records. NCAA.org.

http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/stats/football_records/2022/FBS.pdf

Stankovic, S. (2023, July 25). Elo rating system. Medium. [https://stanislav-](https://stanislav-stankovic.medium.com/elo-rating-system-6196cc59941e)

[stankovic.medium.com/elo-rating-system-6196cc59941e](https://stanislav-stankovic.medium.com/elo-rating-system-6196cc59941e)

Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, October 6). College football playoff national championship. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_Football_Playoff_National_Championship