Coaches with the Highest Winning Percentage in Conference Games

By Tex Noel, 1st-N-Goal/ Executive Director, Intercollegiate Football Researchers Association

Oklahoma coaching legend, Bud Wilkinson tops the list of 6 of college football's winningest coaches—in conference action—that are out the Big 12 Conference —or its earlier predecessors.

In fact, the Sooners have the top 2 spots and No.8.

The 29 coaches below compiled an overall composite winning percentage in all conferences that were Major College/NCAA 1A/Bowl Subdivision at the time the games were played.*

Virginia Tech's Frank Beamer, lead the three active mentors on the list; but is second in his own conference—the ACC—to the retired Bobby Bowden, by a mere .007 points.

Rival coaches from the mid-1970s and most of the 1980s, Barry Switzer and Tom Osborne rank 2nd-3rd respectively. Osborne won 51 more games the former Sooner boss, who compiled a higher winning percentage, 0.897 to 0.869

Ten coaches compiled a career Winning Percentage, which is how the coaches are ranked, over 0.800.

After Beamer, is Osborne's former boss, Bob Devaney; with the second active coach and third man to patrol a sideline in Norman, Bob Stoops next.

Talk about rivals, how about a former teacher and pupil make-up the winningest coaches from the Big 10: Michigan's Bo Schembechler ranks fourth and holds a .035 margin over his former boss, Woody Hayes. Tommy Prothro, whose leadership guided a pair of Pac-8 conference teams over a 16-year period that began 1955, round-out the Top 10.

The "Ole Ball Coach," Steve Spurrier is the remaining active coach at No. 26 and a 0.710 winning mark.

W %	W-L-T	Head Coach	Team(s)	
	Seasons	+		
.897 .869		Bud Wilkinson Barry Switzer Tom Osborne Bo Schembechler	Oklahoma Oklahoma Nebraska Miami OH/Mici	1947-63 1973-88 1973-97 higan
	1963-89 134-27-0 47-10-0	Bobby Bowden Frank Beamer+	Florida State Virginia Tech	1992-09 1987- 2010
.819	84-17-4	Bob Devaney	Wyoming/Nebr	
	1957-72 82-20-0 47-11-1	Bob Stoops+ Tommy Prothro	Oklahoma Oregon State/U	1999-10 JCLA
	1955-70			

.800 152-35-8	Woody Hayes		Miami OH/Ohi	o State 1949, 51-			
78 .796 42-10-2 .794 70-17-3 .787 62-15-5	Fielding Yost John McKay Robert Neyland	1	Michigan 1901 USC Tennessee 1926	1-23, 25-26 1960-75 5-34, 36-40			
.785 73-20-0	Frank Kush		Arizona State	46-52			
1962-79 .775 54-15-2 .769 122-36-2			Duke Mississippi Sta Washington Sta	•			
	Frank Thomas Paul "Bear" Bry Maryland/Ken	yant	1954-76 ama /Texas A&M/Al	1931-46 abama			
.746 106-36-0 .742 140-44-14	1946-82 Phil Fulmer IDana X Bible	LSU	nessee /Texas I/Nebraska/Tex				
1917, 1919-46							
.740 75-25-4			ona State/Misso	uri			
1954-70 .7314 78-28-2 .7308 46-16-3			ls A&M nesota/Michigar				
.727 117-42-6	John Cooper	Tuls	a/Arizona State	38-47 /Ohio State 1977-99			
.710 121-48-5	Steve Spurrier-	+Duk	e/Florida/South				
09 .713 105-41-4 .707 106-41-10 .705 95-38-6	· ·		rgia	7-2002, 05- 1964-88 7-70, 73 1957-76			

- *Divisions determined by NCAA Divisional list in the records book
- +Active through the 2010 season