

General Notes – Coaching Comparisons

- More games per season are played in the current vs. by-gone eras so coaches can build up total wins quicker.
- Winning percentage is a better measure of success than total wins so long as it is maintained for a significant period of time.
- Maintaining a high winning percentage over a long period of time confirms a coaches ability to adapt.
- Commonly, coaches will be successful for a number of years (commonly 7 or so) then will slip back for at least a few years.
- Records will be affected by the number of years spent building vs. maintaining a winning program. Winning percentage is negatively affected by repeated building efforts.
- Level of competition has an effect on record. In particular, out of conference scheduling could improve or diminish a coaches overall record. Also, the balance of intra-conference games to out of conference games has varied through the years.
- Obviously, it is easier to win at some schools than others. This seems to be an even greater factor from the 60s forward with less teams being consistent contenders. (Consider that 9 of 12 teams won at least a share of the SEC from 1949 to 1959. Florida could have been a 10th in 1960 but for a field goal). So, a coach's success is partly due to his skill and partly due to the resources of the school at which he is coaching.
- Championships are another measure of success. If considering conference championships, also consider that conference size has varied over the years. A championship in the 30+ team SIAA, the 23 team Southern Conference, or the 4 team SEC (1943) may be of different relative value. Also, split championships may mean less than outright championships. National championships have a lot to do with accumulated reputation and also with results in other parts of the country over which a coach has no control.