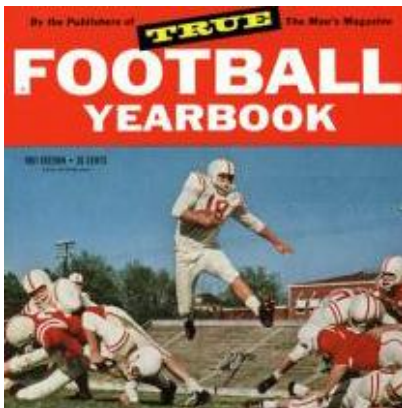


By the Numbers, 11-12-11

Not a good week for college athletics. The Penn State scandal was foremost, but we also had Oklahoma basketball getting three years of probation, Ohio State charged with lack of institutional control, the SEC punishing 8 members for involvement in the Madoff scandal ... Oh, wait, I got the wrong SEC on that last one. The football SEC doesn't punish its members; Auburn has been cleared of all charges of impropriety in the recruitment of Cam Newton. For all that is horrific about the Penn State situation, I thought that the students did themselves proud at the game Saturday. They raised money for victims of abuse, and handled the media frenzy with poise. The sight of both teams gathered at midfield before the game for a prayer was very moving.

There was some discussion about "honoring" the victims (sorry, the alleged victims; nobody seems to doubt the charges) by not playing the game, or cancelling the rest of the season, or even taking a voluntary death penalty next year. I really don't see why any of that makes sense. But perhaps I've been too much of a sports fan for too long. Still, I remember a 60 Minutes (or similar) TV show about Jim Valvano, before he was sick but when he was in trouble for some violations. He was asked whether he thought sports is really important. His quick answer was, "No, we're playing games." But then he told about an NC State fan battling cancer who wrote about how much pleasure the games gave her, distracting her from a bad situation. He concluded with, "Is basketball important? No, of course not. But for the fans, is it important ...?" As we saw on Saturday, sports can provide a huge platform for positive actions.



This week's background was supposed to be of the best college quarterback of 1961. This image (from "True Football"; as opposed to what?) shows this star in an "action" photo, and is a little too small to blow up to full page status. A couple of hints: I am hoping that his college team loses this week, and I always thought he looked like a Greek statue standing in the pocket in his pro career. The photo that I did use for the background is of Ray Schoenke of the SMU Mustangs, the team I grew up rooting for. They don't make pictures like this anymore. It's not especially clear to me why they ever did. (What is that expression on his face?)

You may be surprised to see that my computer likes the Oklahomas better than the SECs. Like the BCS, I have 3 O's in the top 5, but my order is different. I'd have to say that over the years my system has underrated the SEC. And I can point to this week's schedule to explain why. The SEC had some big games last week, and more big games next week, but this week we have Citadel at South Carolina, Furman at Florida, Samford at Auburn, Kentucky at Georgia (OK, so that's a cheap shot) and Georgia Southern at Alabama. Actually, Georgia Southern is good, but year after year the SEC's out-of-conference schedule is horrible.

There aren't many big games anywhere. You'll see several double-digit differences below. Some of the conference divisions are complete messes, so all games count. Southern Cal at Oregon is intriguing and Nebraska at Michigan has an interesting quarterback matchup.

For the computer's pick of the top games of the week, simply subtract the teams' ratings and add 4 points for home field. We have

Virginia Tech over North Carolina by 13

Florida State over Virginia by 10

Oklahoma over Baylor by 11

Michigan over Nebraska by 6

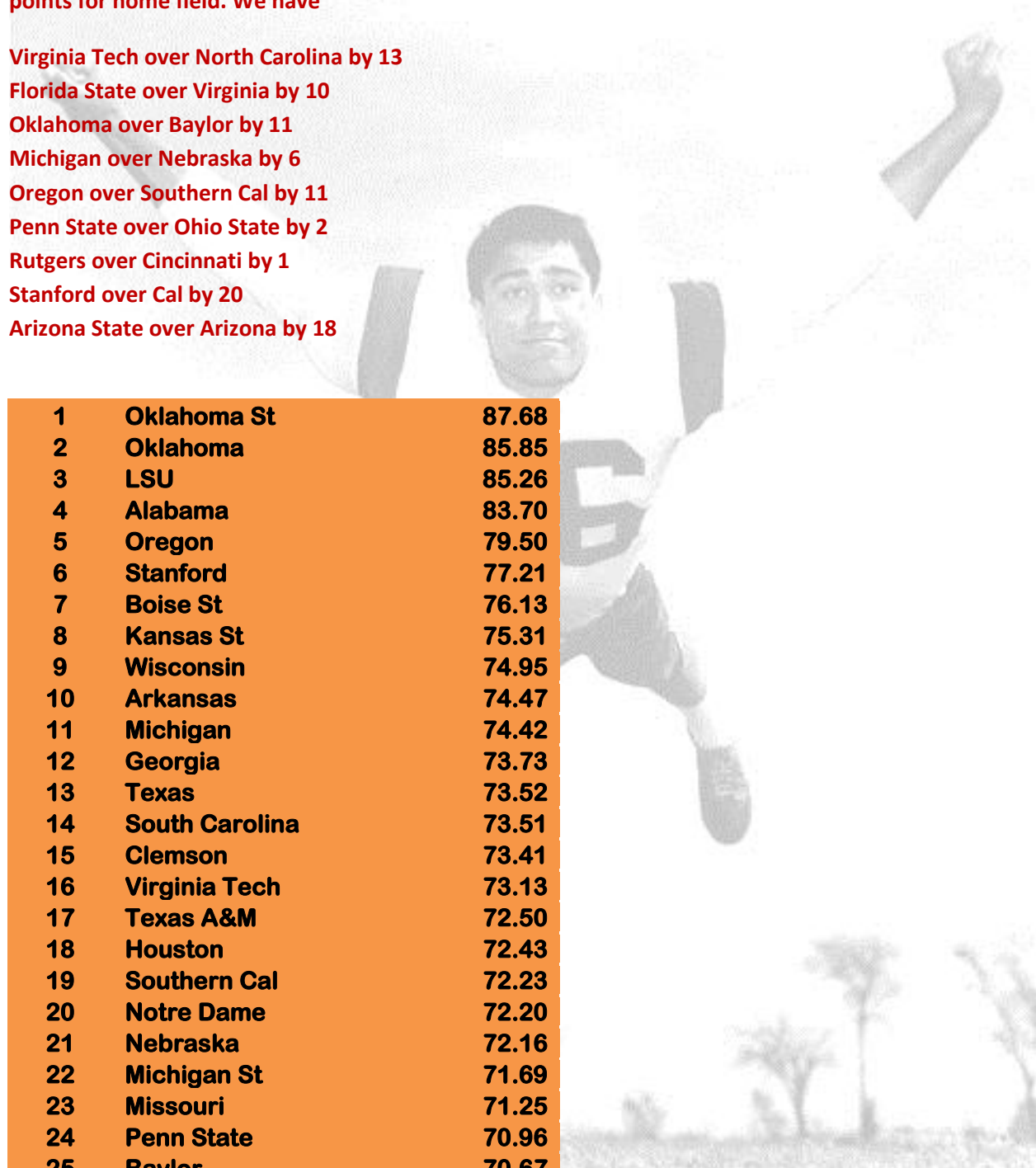
Oregon over Southern Cal by 11

Penn State over Ohio State by 2

Rutgers over Cincinnati by 1

Stanford over Cal by 20

Arizona State over Arizona by 18



1	Oklahoma St	87.68
2	Oklahoma	85.85
3	LSU	85.26
4	Alabama	83.70
5	Oregon	79.50
6	Stanford	77.21
7	Boise St	76.13
8	Kansas St	75.31
9	Wisconsin	74.95
10	Arkansas	74.47
11	Michigan	74.42
12	Georgia	73.73
13	Texas	73.52
14	South Carolina	73.51
15	Clemson	73.41
16	Virginia Tech	73.13
17	Texas A&M	72.50
18	Houston	72.43
19	Southern Cal	72.23
20	Notre Dame	72.20
21	Nebraska	72.16
22	Michigan St	71.69
23	Missouri	71.25
24	Penn State	70.96
25	Baylor	70.67
26	TCU	69.77
27	Southern Miss	68.30

28	Florida St	67.76
29	Arizona St	67.04
30	Tulsa	66.81
31	West Virginia	66.56
32	Cincinnati	65.88
33	Georgia Tech	65.82
34	Florida	65.36
35	Auburn	64.94
36	Illinois	64.84
37	Miami FL	64.63
38	Ohio State	64.57
39	Utah	64.12
40	North Carolina	63.85
41	Washington	63.46
42	Iowa	63.42
43	Iowa St	63.20
44	Toledo	63.12
45	Vanderbilt	62.99
46	Arkansas St	62.86
47	Rutgers	62.80
48	Mississippi St	62.57
49	South Florida	62.39
50	Texas Tech	62.30
51	Tennessee	61.70
52	Virginia	61.29
53	California	61.15
54	Pittsburgh	60.83
55	Northern Illinois	60.26
56	North Dakota St	59.40
57	San Diego St	59.04
58	Wake Forest	58.84
59	Temple	58.74
60	SMU	58.72
61	Purdue	58.60
62	Louisiana Tech	58.53
63	Georgia Southern	58.43
64	UCLA	58.32
65	Louisville	57.88
66	Northwestern	57.69
67	Northern Iowa	57.19
68	Nevada	57.11
69	Brigham Young	56.59
70	Wyoming	56.37
71	Louisiana-Lafayette	56.16
72	Syracuse	56.14



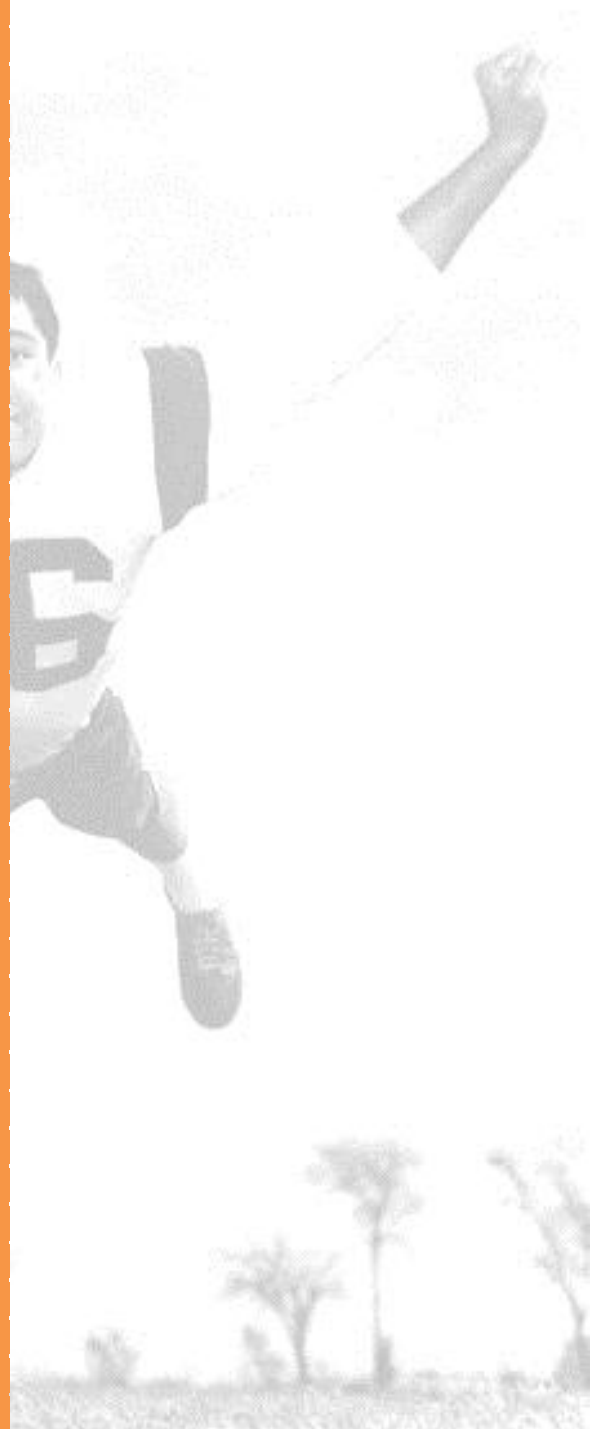
73	Ohio U.	56.13
74	Navy	56.03
75	Air Force	56.03
76	Sam Houston St	55.61
77	North Carolina St	55.38
78	Western Michigan	55.05
79	Florida Int'l	53.86
80	Marshall	53.51
81	Ball St	53.49
82	Connecticut	53.48
83	Arizona	53.38
84	Kansas	53.28
85	UTEP	53.09
86	Lehigh	52.71
87	Kentucky	52.69
88	Wofford	52.68
89	Utah St	52.53
90	Maryland	52.17
91	Hawai'i	52.08
92	Towson	52.06
93	Harvard	51.86
94	Montana St	51.73
95	Western Kentucky	51.72
96	Maine	51.67
97	Washington St	51.50
98	East Carolina	51.44
99	Central Florida	51.14
100	Eastern Michigan	51.10
101	Appalachian St	50.96
102	Rice	50.78
103	Minnesota	50.55
104	Boston College	50.44
105	Miami OH	50.32
106	Indiana St	49.92
107	North Texas	49.79
108	Duke	49.79
109	Mississippi	49.41
110	New Hampshire	49.15
111	Youngstown St	49.09
112	Bowling Green	48.98
113	Chattanooga	48.89
114	Kent St	48.88
115	Oregon St	48.85
116	Old Dominion	48.54
117	Brown	48.32



118	Montana	47.88
119	Colorado	47.81
120	Fresno St	47.72
121	Illinois St	47.50
122	Furman	46.98
123	Louisiana-Monroe	46.94
124	Army	46.94
125	San José St	46.44
126	Central Arkansas	46.22
127	New Mexico St	45.88
128	Samford	45.23
129	Indiana	45.06
130	James Madison	45.02
131	Yale	45.00
132	Delaware	44.30
133	Cal Poly SLO	44.20
134	Stony Brook	44.11
135	Idaho	43.96
136	Holy Cross	43.40
137	Southern Utah	43.34
138	Eastern Kentucky	43.29
139	Buffalo	43.26
140	Central Michigan	43.19
141	South Dakota	43.00
142	Troy	42.85
143	Portland St	42.77
144	South Dakota St	42.52
145	Tennessee Tech	41.64
146	Liberty	41.57
147	Norfolk St	41.50
148	Georgetown DC	40.86
149	Stephen F. Austin	40.67
150	Massachusetts	40.66
151	Northwestern St	40.64
152	Colorado St	40.58
153	The Citadel	40.19
154	Bethune-Cookman	40.18
155	North Dakota	39.95
156	Bucknell	39.94
157	Middle Tennessee St	39.93
158	UNLV	39.92
159	Murray St	39.92
160	Eastern Washington	39.78
161	Jacksonville St	39.04
162	Elon	38.64



163	Alabama-Birmingham	38.31
164	South Carolina St	37.98
165	Albany NY	37.44
166	Lafayette	37.35
167	Weber St	37.14
168	Rhode Island	37.11
169	William & Mary	36.77
170	Southern Illinois	36.70
171	Texas St-San Marcos	36.55
172	Duquesne	36.51
173	Pennsylvania	36.43
174	UC-Davis	36.41
175	Florida Atlantic	35.99
176	Tennessee-Martin	35.84
177	Tulane	35.83
178	McNeese St	35.81
179	Dartmouth	35.52
180	Richmond	35.30
181	South Alabama	35.14
182	Sacramento St	35.06
183	Missouri St	35.05
184	Drake	34.94
185	Jackson St	34.76
186	Cornell NY	34.61
187	Tennessee St	34.42
188	Bryant	34.18
189	Coastal Carolina	34.05
190	Northern Arizona	33.85
191	Florida A&M	33.57
192	Akron	33.19
193	Jacksonville FL	32.90
194	Colgate	32.82
195	New Mexico	32.79
196	Memphis	32.74
197	Hampton	32.45
198	Villanova	32.16
199	Western Illinois	32.06
200	Alabama St	30.99
201	Presbyterian	30.38
202	San Diego	29.55
203	Monmouth NJ	29.38
204	Howard	29.34
205	North Carolina A&T	28.39
206	Eastern Illinois	27.52
207	SE Louisiana St	27.28



208	Georgia St	27.12
209	Morgan St	26.92
210	Texas-San Antonio	26.77
211	Western Carolina	26.33
212	Gardner-Webb	25.95
213	Alabama A&M	25.34
214	Campbell	24.60
215	Sacred Heart	24.53
216	Princeton	24.09
217	Dayton	23.86
218	SE Missouri St	23.66
219	Idaho St	23.38
220	Grambling St	23.18
221	Austin Peay	23.06
222	Lamar	22.62
223	Wagner	22.53
224	Nicholls St	22.06
225	Fordham	21.71
226	Marist	21.48
227	Prairie View A&M	21.16
228	Butler	20.93
229	Northern Colorado	20.29
230	Southern U.	20.05
231	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	19.74
232	Central Conn St	19.71
233	Charleston Southern	18.12
234	Robert Morris PA	18.02
235	Columbia	17.06
236	St Francis PA	16.92
237	North Carolina Central	16.45
238	VMI	16.07
239	Texas Southern	12.94
240	Morehead St	12.14
241	Delaware St	11.38
242	Savannah St	10.92
243	Davidson	9.14
244	Mississippi Valley St	8.20
245	Alcorn St	8.20
246	Valparaiso	5.41

