

By the Numbers, 11-26-11

I have some fond Thanksgiving memories of sitting around watching the Skins Game. No, this is not a distasteful joke about the state of college athletics; I'm referring to the golfing event that ran from 1983 to 2008 over Thanksgiving weekend. Watching Jack Nicklaus hole a putt for the outrageous sum of \$240,000 in 1984, Lee Trevino's hole-in-one in 1987; there were some good moments. Granted, watching it was always a little like watching Texas Hold 'Em; once the novelty of the game wears off, you have to be pretty hardcore to continue to watch. So, what does this little trip down memory lane have to do with football? Well, the Skins Game was the start of Silly Season in golf, with gimmicky little tournaments played here and there for no good reason other than television money. And we are now entering Silly Weekend for college football, with gimmicky conference championship games played for television money. Do we really need Oregon versus UCLA? Haven't Clemson fans suffered enough lately? Granted, the Wisconsin – Michigan State rematch is interesting and there's always a chance that Georgia could win, but I don't think we need it. A good game is the Bedlam game between Oklahoma State and Oklahoma, a rivalry game with a legitimate, old-fashioned conference championship on the line. That should be a lot of fun. Otherwise (speaking of Silly Weekend) there are some Big East games that in some fashion will decide that conference champion and ruin one of the BCS bowl games (probably the Orange; sorry, ACC fans). And a nice game for Boise State – check out the prediction below.

This week's background is in honor of the news that Urban Meyer has agreed to coach Ohio State. The only decent trivia question I can think of is to name the Clemson player that Woody punched to end his career. A little known fact is that Clemson was ahead by 2, Woody's punch cost the Buckeyes 15 yards and put Clemson into field goal range at the end of the game, a fact that is only notable because people like my Clemson roommate had Clemson minus two and a half. Kick the field goal!! Sadly, the Tigers showed some sportsmanship and just ran out the clock.

Here are the computer's pick of the top games of the week:

ACC: Virginia Tech over Clemson by 6

SEC: LSU over Georgia by 12

Big: Wisconsin over Michigan State by 5

PAC: Oregon over UCLA by 19

USA: Houston over Southern Miss by 11

MAC: Northern Illinois over Ohio by 5

Oklahoma State over Oklahoma by 6

Baylor over Texas by 5

West Virginia over South Florida by 4

Cincinnati over Connecticut by 13

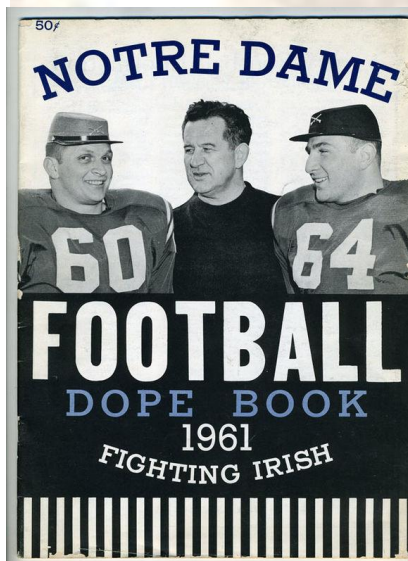
Boise State over New Mexico by 46

The FCS (Football Championship Series, aka Division 1AA) starts its CS (as opposed to the BS of the big schools) in earnest this weekend. I was pleased to see that my top 14 are all in the 16 teams remaining. But, to be fair, all that's happened so far is 4 play-in games so about all I can honestly say is that my top 14 look a lot like the official top 14. Here are some predictions:

Sam Houston State over Stony Brook by 17
Montana State over New Hampshire by 6
Northern Iowa over Wofford by 9
Montana over Central Arkansas by 8
Georgia Southern over Old Dominion by 14
Appalachian State over Maine by 6
Towson over Lehigh by 6
North Dakota State over JMU by 16

The Division III playoffs have reached the quarterfinals. In Salem, we're always excited to see how Wisconsin-Whitewater and Mount Union and are going to get here (they're 1-2 in the official polls). They've played 6 championship games in a row, with each team winning three. I can't think of any other two teams who have dominated a sport like this. Mount Union has made the Stagg Bowl 10 of the last 11 years. They have the easiest road this year, getting Wabash and one of the Saints. My ratings only have Mount Union #6, though. Whitewater (#2) gets Salisbury (#4) this week and Mary Hardin-Baylor (#1) next week – assuming that MHB defeats Wesley and Inigo Montoya this week. The picks are

Wisconsin-Whitewater over Salisbury by 7
Mary Hardin-Baylor over Wesley by 13
Mount Union over Wabash by 14
St. Thomas over St. John Fisher by 4



It looks like I won't use the following gem as a background. It has a little Three Stooges feel to it, and I don't believe that any of the people pictured are Lou Holtz or Digger Phelps, but I can't resist commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Dope Book. No wonder they didn't win many games in the early 60s.



1	LSU	98.93
2	Oklahoma St	97.65
3	Alabama	96.48
4	Oklahoma	95.75
5	Stanford	92.87
6	Oregon	91.98
7	Wisconsin	89.78
8	Boise St	89.70
9	Southern Cal	89.01
10	Michigan	88.53
11	Kansas St	88.52
12	Arkansas	87.91
13	Houston	87.70
14	Baylor	87.33
15	Georgia	87.12
16	South Carolina	86.70
17	Texas	86.62
18	Virginia Tech	86.46
19	Texas A&M	85.42
20	Michigan St	84.86
21	Nebraska	84.09
22	Missouri	84.04
23	TCU	83.10
24	Notre Dame	82.88
25	Penn State	81.36
26	Clemson	80.81
27	Iowa St	79.58
28	West Virginia	79.26
29	Florida St	78.81
30	Tulsa	78.27
31	Florida	77.50
32	Auburn	77.48
33	California	77.38
34	Southern Miss	76.72
35	Arizona St	76.65
36	Georgia Tech	76.58
37	Cincinnati	76.56
38	Utah	76.45
39	Vanderbilt	76.43
40	Toledo	76.25
41	Mississippi St	76.20
42	Iowa	76.15
43	Washington	76.13

44	North Carolina	75.95
45	Ohio State	75.48
46	Arkansas St	75.33
47	Brigham Young	75.00
48	Miami FL	74.74
49	Tennessee	74.49
50	Louisiana Tech	74.48
51	Rutgers	73.99
52	Texas Tech	73.98
53	Northern Illinois	73.76
54	Illinois	73.76
55	UCLA	73.35
56	Virginia	73.16
57	Louisville	72.85
58	San Diego St	72.64
59	Pittsburgh	71.99
60	Temple	71.93
61	Georgia Southern	71.17
62	North Carolina St	71.02
63	South Florida	70.79
64	Arizona	70.72
65	Northern Iowa	70.62
66	North Dakota St	70.62
67	Northwestern	70.53
68	Nevada	70.37
69	SMU	70.25
70	Wake Forest	69.92
71	Wyoming	69.91
72	Purdue	69.87
73	Air Force	69.75
74	Utah St	69.26
75	Sam Houston St	69.24
76	Ohio U.	69.04
77	Kentucky	68.46
78	Western Michigan	68.42
79	Syracuse	67.65
80	Louisiana-Lafayette	67.38
81	Florida Int'l	67.31
82	Connecticut	67.18
83	Marshall	66.84
84	Oregon St	66.71
85	Washington St	66.63
86	Navy	66.43
87	Western Kentucky	66.17
88	Wofford	65.38



89	Kansas	65.03
90	Boston College	65.03
91	Minnesota	65.01
92	Montana	64.70
93	Central Florida	64.36
94	East Carolina	64.05
95	Ball St	63.98
96	Montana St	63.68
97	Hawai'i	63.64
98	San José St	63.62
99	Towson	63.33
100	Appalachian St	63.31
101	Mississippi	63.27
102	Rice	62.93
103	Colorado	62.61
104	UTEP	62.46
105	Bowling Green	62.08
106	Fresno St	62.07
107	Duke	61.81
108	New Hampshire	61.62
109	Lehigh	61.56
110	Kent St	61.53
111	Maryland	61.49
112	Miami OH	61.36
113	Old Dominion	61.15
114	Maine	61.15
115	North Texas	61.13
116	Eastern Michigan	61.08
117	Central Arkansas	60.85
118	Harvard	60.83
119	Chattanooga	60.46
120	Illinois St	59.63
121	Indiana St	59.51
122	Furman	59.20
123	Cal Poly SLO	59.13
124	James Madison	58.79
125	Youngstown St	58.78
126	Louisiana-Monroe	58.61
127	Army	58.17
128	Southern Utah	57.68
129	Samford	57.25
130	New Mexico St	57.21
131	Stephen F. Austin	56.60
132	Stony Brook	56.45
133	Eastern Washington	56.28



134	Delaware	56.10
135	Indiana	56.01
136	Idaho	56.01
137	Buffalo	55.81
138	South Dakota	55.59
139	Central Michigan	55.53
140	North Dakota	55.39
141	Troy	55.29
142	Eastern Kentucky	55.28
143	South Dakota St	54.95
144	Portland St	54.84
145	Colorado St	54.77
146	Weber St	53.74
147	The Citadel	53.50
148	Tennessee Tech	53.35
149	Alabama-Birmingham	53.21
150	Jacksonville St	52.71
151	UNLV	52.41
152	Liberty	52.37
153	Middle Tennessee St	52.13
154	Brown	52.03
155	Holy Cross	52.02
156	Bethune-Cookman	52.00
157	Norfolk St	51.88
158	Murray St	51.85
159	Northwestern St	51.55
160	Southern Illinois	51.49
161	Massachusetts	51.12
162	Elon	50.76
163	UC-Davis	50.72
164	William & Mary	49.96
165	McNeese St	49.93
166	Missouri St	49.77
167	Texas St-San Marcos	49.42
168	Georgetown DC	49.39
169	Sacramento St	48.83
170	Florida Atlantic	48.71
171	South Carolina St	48.43
172	Northern Arizona	48.30
173	New Mexico	48.08
174	Tulane	48.04
175	Rhode Island	47.89
176	Albany NY	47.54
177	Coastal Carolina	47.38
178	Tennessee-Martin	47.14



179	Duquesne	46.86
180	Bucknell	46.77
181	Memphis	46.48
182	South Alabama	46.43
183	Jackson St	46.42
184	Richmond	46.39
185	Drake	45.83
186	Lafayette	45.17
187	Western Illinois	45.04
188	Yale	45.00
189	Tennessee St	44.88
190	Hampton	44.77
191	Presbyterian	44.07
192	Cornell NY	43.97
193	Colgate	43.93
194	Florida A&M	43.57
195	Dartmouth	43.51
196	Akron	43.13
197	Villanova	42.92
198	San Diego	42.64
199	Pennsylvania	42.40
200	Jacksonville FL	42.36
201	Alabama St	42.33
202	SE Louisiana St	41.13
203	Georgia St	40.99
204	Bryant	40.63
205	Texas-San Antonio	40.36
206	North Carolina A&T	39.92
207	Eastern Illinois	39.73
208	Alabama A&M	37.69
209	Idaho St	37.61
210	Monmouth NJ	37.36
211	Western Carolina	37.26
212	Howard	37.16
213	Morgan St	36.83
214	Grambling St	36.36
215	SE Missouri St	36.07
216	Gardner-Webb	35.54
217	Northern Colorado	34.89
218	Lamar	34.75
219	Wagner	34.51
220	Campbell	34.48
221	Dayton	34.30
222	Sacred Heart	34.23
223	Austin Peay	34.04



224	Nicholls St	33.97
225	Central Conn St	33.26
226	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	33.18
227	Prairie View A&M	32.07
228	Fordham	31.44
229	Princeton	31.34
230	Marist	31.20
231	VMI	30.31
232	Southern U.	29.79
233	Columbia	28.95
234	Charleston Southern	28.71
235	Butler	28.19
236	North Carolina Central	27.60
237	Robert Morris PA	27.49
238	St Francis PA	27.27
239	Delaware St	25.46
240	Morehead St	25.45
241	Savannah St	23.03
242	Texas Southern	22.46
243	Davidson	20.54
244	Mississippi Valley St	19.70
245	Alcorn St	19.38
246	Valparaiso	14.87

