

RATINGS 11-9-13

Welcome back to By the Numbers. This is a rating system that uses only wins, losses, points for, points against and schedule to rank college football teams. The “wins” column shows ratings using only wins and losses (no points, as required of BCS computer systems). Offense/defense breaks the points-only ratings (no wins/losses) into components. A more thorough description of the system can be found at www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html.

Most experts are getting ready for the Alabama-Florida State championship game. There is a little work to be done first, though. Alabama may have two more Tigers to deal with (Auburn and Missouri) and Florida State will likely have Duke or Virginia Tech in the ACC championship game (OK, that’s a cheap shot, but the Hokies can play well). There are a lot of unbeaten teams left. Ohio State has its rivalry game against Michigan, but may get to prove itself in the Big 10 Championship game if Michigan State is for real. The winner of this week’s MSU-Nebraska is likely a division winner. Baylor has a couple of tough games left, but the big matchup this week is Oklahoma State at Texas; both teams control their destiny in the Big 12. Northern Illinois and Fresno State are the most likely BCS busters. Northern Illinois has its biggest test yet this week, while Fresno may have a rematch later with Boise to deal with (Fresno won round one, 41-40). My guess is that, for better or worse, the end of the BCS will also mark the end of the Northern Illini of the world getting a major bowl bid.

It’s a full week of football. Decent MAC games on Tuesday and Wednesday, more on Thursday and Friday, and some important games on Saturday. If Duke wins at home against Miami, they have the inside track for the division; I’m amazed that the prediction is so close. South Carolina can keep the pressure on Missouri by beating Florida, but Georgia can deflate the Gamecocks’ division hopes if the Dawgs win at Auburn. Stanford has a classic letdown game against Southern Cal; the Trojans have started playing well and have a strong defense.

I’ve been reporting the top 5 teams in offense and defense the last few weeks, mostly because it’s a new stat I added and have been having fun with. I thought a different aspect of the ratings deserved mention this week. The overall rating is a combination of win ratings (using schedule, wins, losses and nothing else) and points ratings (schedule, points for, points against). Interestingly, the top-rated team overall is not number one in either of the component ratings. To me, this says that this is a year with many good teams but nobody dominant. In the win ratings, the top five is Stanford, Florida State, Alabama, Missouri and Ohio State. In the points ratings, the top five is Baylor, Florida State, Oregon, Alabama and Arizona State. Would this have been a good year for a four-team playoff? Maybe, but which four? There are four major unbeaten teams, but would you leave Stanford out? Putting it in mathematical terms, a playoff with n teams will always make team number $n+1$ mad.

Here’s a reminder of where the score predictions come from. Michigan State has an overall rating of 99.5, Nebraska is rated at 92.9. Add in 4 points for Nebraska being at home and I pick Michigan State to win by 3. Using the offense and defense ratings, Michigan State is expected to score $33.6-11.1=23$ points while Nebraska scores $40.4-23.3=17$. Adjusting these points to make a 3-point spread, I add 3 to Nebraska and get Michigan State 23, Nebraska 20.

This week's predictions are:

(T) Toledo 29, Buffalo 24

(W) Northern Illinois 44, Ball State 35

(Th) Clemson 38, Georgia Tech 24

(F) UCLA 31, Washington 24

(S) Miami 33, Duke 32

Louisville 34, Houston 27

South Carolina 26, Florida 7

Virginia Tech 28, Maryland 7

Auburn 38, Georgia 28

Michigan State 23, Nebraska 20

Oklahoma State 35, Texas 34

Arizona State 49, Oregon State 30

Stanford 24, Southern Cal 14

Last week's trivia answers: Roger Staubach to Drew Pearson.

As an explosion of cable TV specials indicates, Friday 11/22 marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of JFK. (By my count, 112 of the 65 people in Dealey Plaza that day were in on the conspiracy.) Since I was living in Dallas at the time, this and the Navy team that Staubach played on (and was JFK's team) have always been important to me. There will be a documentary on Thursday 11/14 about the Army-Navy game in 1963 that was postponed, but not cancelled, after the tragedy. The background picture is from that game. So, here are a couple of questions about that game.

(1) Name the Army QB shown scoring; this play was the first play for which an instant replay was shown! The Navy helmets read "Beat Army" and the jerseys show "Drive for Five." Navy did win for the fifth straight year against Army, capping a 9-1 season and earning a "national championship" game in the Cotton Bowl against Texas. The game ended with Army on the Navy 2.

(2) If Army had won the game, who would have played Texas in the Cotton Bowl?

And here are this week's ratings:

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Florida St	118.75	119.48	60.88	22.38
2	Baylor	115.75	112.70	69.23	16.49
3	Alabama	115.34	118.32	48.88	27.54
4	Stanford	113.64	120.55	43.97	24.93
5	Oregon	112.79	112.50	59.13	19.50
6	Ohio State	110.24	113.43	56.41	14.47
7	Arizona St	109.60	111.91	57.41	14.10
8	Missouri	108.81	114.07	48.58	17.77
9	Clemson	106.60	111.64	49.65	14.76
10	Auburn	105.62	111.34	45.74	16.67
11	South Carolina	103.67	109.55	42.49	17.67
12	Texas A&M	103.25	106.63	57.35	6.05
13	UCLA	102.31	105.92	44.86	17.23
14	Wisconsin	102.10	102.46	45.26	21.40
15	Oklahoma St	100.02	101.96	48.61	13.58
16	Washington	99.66	98.78	45.35	20.60
17	Michigan St	99.45	104.59	33.64	23.26
18	Brigham Young	99.31	100.88	42.75	19.27
19	Georgia	99.11	103.60	47.41	10.09
20	Southern Cal	99.07	101.21	38.88	22.05
21	Central Florida	98.71	103.96	43.33	12.64
22	Virginia Tech	98.25	102.84	34.00	22.48
23	LSU	98.21	99.55	49.71	11.51
24	Oklahoma	97.94	103.88	37.31	16.86
25	Mississippi	96.77	101.54	40.41	14.28
26	Fresno St	96.61	103.96	46.05	4.66
27	Miami FL	96.60	100.61	45.82	9.81
28	Georgia Tech	96.59	96.80	44.53	16.67
29	Texas	96.57	101.01	44.34	10.61
30	Arizona	96.02	97.37	44.19	14.75
31	Louisville	95.94	96.67	41.68	18.09
32	Notre Dame	94.50	99.85	39.17	12.31
33	Oregon St	94.27	96.85	45.73	9.60
34	Northern Illinois	93.87	102.29	45.03	1.29
35	Kansas St	93.67	91.86	42.41	18.75
36	Minnesota	93.32	100.22	35.65	12.34
37	North Dakota St	92.92	98.62	35.64	13.71
38	Nebraska	92.87	97.11	40.39	11.07
39	Utah	92.80	91.31	43.43	16.38
40	Houston	92.66	95.70	44.72	8.28
41	Duke	92.56	96.67	42.04	9.28
42	Michigan	92.03	95.77	43.31	8.00
43	Eastern Illinois	90.71	96.85	43.93	2.50
44	Iowa	90.00	91.56	35.13	17.31

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45	Pittsburgh	89.62	92.48	35.64	14.49
46	Texas Tech	89.51	91.48	43.45	7.87
47	Ball St	88.64	94.64	40.94	3.55
48	Florida	88.19	88.71	29.69	22.42
49	Boise St	88.03	87.93	42.94	9.91
50	East Carolina	88.01	90.46	41.94	7.13
51	Washington St	87.50	89.94	40.74	7.82
52	Vanderbilt	87.25	90.44	40.36	6.85
53	North Carolina	86.59	86.41	38.61	12.86
54	Toledo	86.55	91.19	38.17	6.18
55	Boston College	86.49	89.67	37.92	8.52
56	Penn State	85.42	89.24	32.77	11.63
57	Buffalo	85.37	88.77	33.75	11.22
58	Utah St	84.98	80.57	40.70	15.35
59	Mississippi St	84.97	84.51	37.01	13.23
60	Tennessee	84.56	87.57	37.49	7.19
61	Louisiana-Lafayette	84.53	89.60	39.65	1.99
62	Indiana	83.82	82.29	52.60	-1.98
63	Northwestern	83.76	84.15	36.50	11.23
64	North Texas	83.75	86.02	33.27	11.70
65	Rice	81.30	84.34	31.91	9.38
66	Navy	81.23	82.53	34.30	9.49
67	Syracuse	81.15	84.13	32.67	8.57
68	Maryland	81.02	83.51	31.40	10.41
69	West Virginia	80.85	81.68	37.06	7.02
70	Marshall	80.67	77.59	44.95	4.71
71	TCU	80.61	79.10	30.52	16.76
72	Rutgers	79.32	83.80	33.77	3.37
73	Bowling Green	79.32	78.25	32.99	12.33
74	Cincinnati	78.95	79.54	34.81	7.67
75	San Diego St	78.90	83.43	29.93	6.71
76	Eastern Washington	78.83	84.29	37.79	-2.59
77	San José St	78.75	81.47	35.33	3.82
78	SE Louisiana St	77.72	79.74	36.55	2.58
79	Ohio U.	77.70	80.77	33.00	4.57
80	Middle Tennessee St	77.08	79.80	33.40	4.02
81	Colorado	76.73	80.35	34.45	1.30
82	Maine	75.98	83.63	30.71	-1.68
83	Arkansas St	75.97	78.73	29.43	6.81
84	Arkansas	75.89	77.93	29.88	7.33
85	Coastal Carolina	75.51	81.21	40.54	-9.11
86	Tulane	75.19	79.34	27.86	5.51
87	Illinois	74.95	73.08	39.98	2.00
88	Wake Forest	74.38	75.67	24.37	12.37
89	Texas-San Antonio	73.72	75.26	29.06	6.64

135	Cal Poly SLO	64.35	63.01	24.67	5.64
136	Central Michigan	63.94	67.91	22.24	-0.17
137	Murray St	63.41	69.17	26.72	-7.84
138	Purdue	63.32	65.52	22.60	1.42
139	New Hampshire	63.07	63.60	29.29	-3.05
140	Delaware	62.70	69.96	26.23	-10.28
141	Montana St	62.60	63.45	29.53	-4.26
142	Samford	62.47	62.10	30.67	-3.75
143	New Mexico	61.06	57.35	35.90	-5.51
144	Army	60.29	58.31	27.37	-0.31
145	Kent St	60.25	58.64	23.39	3.08
146	James Madison	60.15	61.46	22.74	-0.66
147	Southern Utah	59.83	65.28	13.05	2.61
148	Tulsa	59.50	57.75	26.79	-0.88
149	Wofford	59.29	60.58	17.89	3.34
150	Temple	58.78	53.48	25.32	5.06
151	Louisiana Tech	57.88	57.20	21.03	1.62
152	Lehigh	57.62	66.27	20.72	-12.04
153	Liberty	57.56	55.33	20.46	4.16
154	Hawai'i	57.22	50.37	30.17	0.89
155	Jackson St	57.17	65.19	17.12	-7.97
156	Georgia Southern	57.08	54.81	28.31	-4.14
157	Furman	57.01	57.88	17.97	1.52
158	Alabama-Birmingham	56.67	55.83	29.12	-7.45
159	Central Arkansas	56.55	56.89	25.78	-5.98
160	Yale	56.29	57.53	22.70	-4.49
161	South Dakota	56.27	55.68	19.33	1.54
162	Connecticut	56.12	52.01	24.40	1.50
163	Brown	55.76	56.73	20.50	-2.45
164	Northwestern St	55.22	59.16	21.64	-8.50
165	Air Force	55.11	51.14	29.66	-4.99
166	Portland St	55.07	54.19	25.51	-5.44
167	Massachusetts	55.02	54.23	18.44	1.44
168	Sacred Heart	54.95	60.12	16.82	-5.76
169	Sacramento St	54.05	52.76	22.70	-3.09
170	Tennessee Tech	53.90	57.36	20.36	-7.90
171	Western Illinois	53.75	50.93	21.57	0.00
172	Eastern Michigan	53.52	57.65	23.30	-12.21
173	Idaho	53.27	55.54	23.45	-9.86
174	The Citadel	53.00	50.56	24.43	-4.19
175	Pennsylvania	52.39	55.34	16.37	-4.71
176	Stony Brook	51.69	48.86	17.00	2.45
177	Richmond	51.63	47.88	22.64	-1.90
178	San Diego	51.40	51.84	23.72	-9.38
179	Western Michigan	51.25	50.62	21.80	-6.03

180	Alabama St	51.01	52.80	22.47	-10.50
181	New Mexico St	50.28	50.10	26.28	-12.17
182	SE Missouri St	49.56	51.12	17.83	-7.02
183	Dartmouth	49.24	45.93	19.91	-2.28
184	UTEP	48.85	45.35	25.32	-7.78
185	Nicholls St	47.97	52.83	21.38	-17.07
186	Florida Int'l	47.65	50.16	14.16	-6.72
187	Hampton	47.55	50.69	16.86	-10.44
188	Georgia St	47.40	43.93	21.34	-5.37
189	Delaware St	47.40	55.31	6.78	-7.55
190	Alcorn St	47.11	51.04	17.53	-12.75
191	Southern U.	47.01	54.27	15.77	-15.96
192	Lamar	46.83	45.70	19.03	-7.10
193	North Carolina A&T	46.71	47.38	14.16	-4.98
194	Appalachian St	46.50	42.80	18.53	-3.15
195	Gardner-Webb	46.28	48.76	10.26	-4.17
196	UC-Davis	46.08	44.00	13.56	-1.00
197	Monmouth NJ	45.70	46.10	16.54	-8.01
198	Norfolk St	45.13	47.38	8.11	-2.88
199	Stephen F. Austin	44.68	45.95	31.83	-25.62
200	Robert Morris PA	44.62	47.49	10.62	-6.84
201	Bucknell	44.36	44.65	11.18	-3.86
202	North Carolina Central	44.12	46.89	12.31	-8.89
203	Western Carolina	44.06	43.34	20.45	-11.95
204	Butler	43.94	46.86	16.35	-13.32
205	Southern Miss	43.73	43.67	18.64	-11.45
206	UNC-Charlotte	43.62	45.91	19.84	-16.21
207	Lafayette	43.52	40.90	19.84	-9.11
208	St Francis PA	43.34	44.56	12.10	-7.20
209	Duquesne	43.20	46.89	10.56	-9.44
210	Prairie View A&M	42.97	43.63	25.36	-20.00
211	North Dakota	42.55	41.18	17.23	-9.33
212	Dayton	42.42	45.79	13.48	-12.69
213	Miami OH	42.37	37.73	14.65	-2.12
214	Morgan St	42.29	44.27	16.69	-13.99
215	Rhode Island	41.23	43.43	9.56	-8.28
216	Florida A&M	41.13	41.48	10.20	-6.30
217	Austin Peay	40.98	45.85	7.13	-10.03
218	Marist	40.69	42.03	14.63	-12.63
219	Holy Cross	40.52	37.00	18.46	-9.48
220	Howard	39.96	40.90	13.29	-11.47
221	Idaho St	39.79	35.14	22.22	-12.33
222	Bryant	39.72	39.38	16.44	-12.97
223	Indiana St	39.48	36.86	17.95	-11.37
224	Weber St	39.20	40.50	14.97	-14.46

225	Drake	39.10	42.32	6.01	-8.42
226	Mercer	38.88	46.91	12.59	-22.30
227	Elon	38.16	34.86	16.31	-10.09
228	Colgate	37.42	35.39	15.24	-11.64
229	Presbyterian	35.26	32.93	18.70	-16.90
230	VMI	33.74	31.68	14.32	-14.47
231	Central Conn St	33.44	35.46	19.29	-25.76
232	Albany NY	32.69	29.69	11.64	-11.48
233	Cornell	32.43	27.99	18.92	-16.94
234	Alabama A&M	32.03	32.60	1.78	-7.57
235	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	30.46	29.78	16.80	-22.37
236	Jacksonville FL	30.34	28.80	20.53	-24.94
237	Northern Colorado	29.09	19.73	15.77	-9.96
238	Wagner	28.23	31.12	4.54	-17.65
239	Texas Southern	25.32	23.99	2.99	-12.89
240	Columbia	24.70	27.63	0.76	-17.57
241	Savannah St	24.43	26.32	9.98	-25.54
242	Houston Baptist	24.06	44.85	-0.84	-42.88
243	Mississippi Valley St	22.98	20.78	6.01	-17.04
244	Georgetown DC	22.96	20.53	8.97	-19.69
245	Morehead St	20.11	26.56	7.17	-33.88
246	Grambling St	17.59	15.01	6.12	-22.14
247	Campbell	11.62	10.62	5.10	-29.60
248	Stetson	10.00	10.00	-4.89	-27.64
249	Valparaiso	9.33	13.04	0.64	-34.40
250	Davidson	-0.89	-1.13	-7.77	-30.70

