

## RATINGS 10-31-15

Welcome back to By the Numbers! This is a rating system that uses wins, losses, points for, points against and schedule (and nothing else) to rank college football teams. A more thorough description of the system is at [www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html](http://www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html). In spite of the numerous factors missing from the system, it does well predicting games. Last week, it picked 78% winners and 58% against the spread. Numbers like this should be taken with due caution. Favorites won 80% of last week's games, so if you're wanting who will win the game you were better off with Vegas than me – last week.

A couple of technical notes about last week's games, for the statistically inclined among you. On average, (last week) the spread favored the home team by 2 points too many. If you had picked all road teams against the spread, you would have done well. The standard deviation of differences between predictions and actual scores was just over 16. That is, the spread (and my predictions, as well) missed the game score by more than 16 points on one-third of the games! It seems like with that much variation we ought to be able to beat the spread, but it's more accurate to say that that's how much randomness there is in the game.

Randomness? There's 7 points randomness in whether the replay official can see a Miami player's knee on the ground to negate the game-winning kickoff return. Or the block in the back. But, actually, that offset the two times that the officials stopped the clock for no reason to allow Duke to score the go-ahead touchdown with 6 seconds left. Which is ignoring the dubious call that the Duke player got across the line, which was not overturned because somehow there were no cameras near the goal line to show whether the ball crossed. Did some kids dress up as officials for Halloween and end up doing the game?

Mostly, the Halloween games went as expected. Some high-scoring games were fun, with Oklahoma State (70-53) and Clemson (56-41) posting scores their basketball counterparts would envy. Last week I complained about the instability in the ratings. This week looks much better in the sense that my predictions are closer to the actual spreads, and there is much less difference between the points and wins versions of my ratings.

Some big games this week! Clemson-Florida State may determine the ACC, Duke-North Carolina is big in the division, TCU-Oklahoma State is huge, and LSU-Alabama also has playoff implications. The ratings like Clemson and Carolina. I love the TCU-Oklahoma State prediction of 42-41; that might underestimate how many points they put up. It's surprising to me that Vegas has Alabama by 7. The general trend is that for big games the Vegas spread is larger than mine, but for most other games the Vegas spread is smaller. I included two not-so-big games, which are the highest- and lowest-scoring predictions. Mississippi State 17-6 barely beat out the prediction of Florida 26, Vanderbilt -2 for lowest total score.

North Carolina 35, Duke 24

Miami 30, Virginia 21

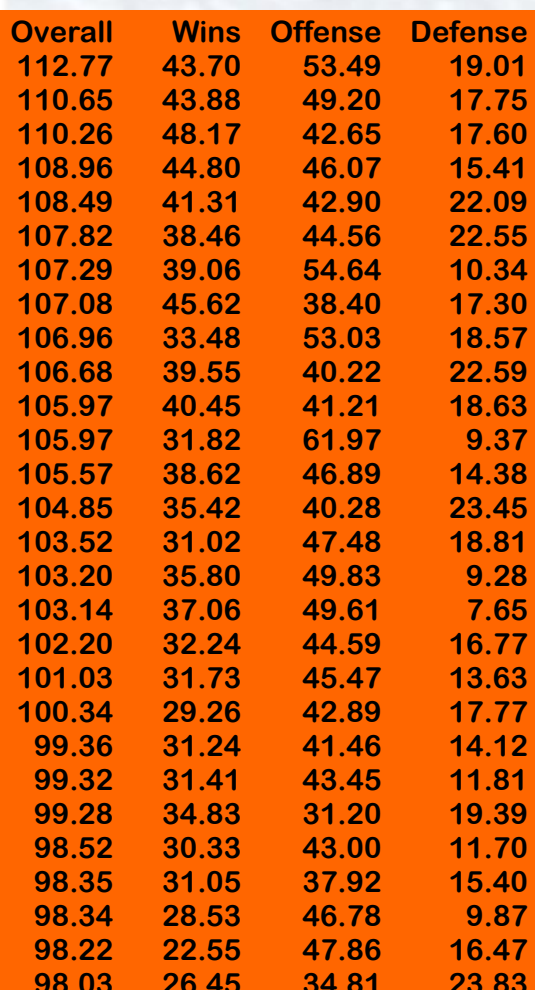
Alabama 27, LSU 24

TCU 42, Oklahoma State 41

California 45, Oregon 42

Mississippi State 17, Missouri 6

And here are the ratings:



		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Clemson	112.77	43.70	53.49	19.01
2	Notre Dame	110.65	43.88	49.20	17.75
3	Iowa	110.26	48.17	42.65	17.60
4	LSU	108.96	44.80	46.07	15.41
5	Ohio State	108.49	41.31	42.90	22.09
6	Alabama	107.82	38.46	44.56	22.55
7	TCU	107.29	39.06	54.64	10.34
8	Michigan St	107.08	45.62	38.40	17.30
9	Oklahoma	106.96	33.48	53.03	18.57
10	Florida	106.68	39.55	40.22	22.59
11	Utah	105.97	40.45	41.21	18.63
12	Baylor	105.97	31.82	61.97	9.37
13	Stanford	105.57	38.62	46.89	14.38
14	Michigan	104.85	35.42	40.28	23.45
15	Southern Cal	103.52	31.02	47.48	18.81
16	Oklahoma St	103.20	35.80	49.83	9.28
17	Memphis	103.14	37.06	49.61	7.65
18	Mississippi	102.20	32.24	44.59	16.77
19	North Carolina	101.03	31.73	45.47	13.63
20	Florida St	100.34	29.26	42.89	17.77
21	Navy	99.36	31.24	41.46	14.12
22	Texas A&M	99.32	31.41	43.45	11.81
23	Northwestern	99.28	34.83	31.20	19.39
24	UCLA	98.52	30.33	43.00	11.70
25	Toledo	98.35	31.05	37.92	15.40
26	California	98.34	28.53	46.78	9.87
27	Tennessee	98.22	22.55	47.86	16.47
28	Wisconsin	98.03	26.45	34.81	23.83
29	Mississippi St	98.03	26.95	38.87	19.10
30	Penn State	97.70	31.01	33.58	18.14
31	Houston	97.49	25.96	46.47	11.47
32	Pittsburgh	97.16	30.05	35.76	15.89
33	Temple	96.83	29.35	34.79	16.99
34	Bowling Green	94.59	22.47	49.05	6.29

35	Brigham Young	94.56	23.66	40.91	12.78
36	Duke	94.20	21.81	40.68	14.58
37	Washington	92.40	16.68	33.38	24.21
38	West Virginia	92.36	17.36	40.22	16.37
39	Boise St	91.49	16.33	43.31	12.47
40	Oregon	91.19	23.40	50.08	-4.48
41	Miami FL	90.87	21.58	35.83	11.41
42	Texas Tech	90.55	18.45	53.07	-2.46
43	Georgia	90.46	18.16	39.53	11.24
44	Arkansas	90.45	17.91	38.25	12.83
45	Washington St	89.97	20.84	38.38	7.59
46	Georgia Tech	89.95	12.28	44.22	13.11
47	Western Kentucky	89.82	19.77	43.21	3.82
48	Appalachian St	89.75	17.54	37.63	12.19
49	Auburn	89.73	20.05	38.65	7.78
50	Louisville	89.06	14.22	36.01	16.51
51	North Carolina St	88.87	12.98	41.90	11.79
52	Texas	88.45	18.35	31.44	14.05
53	Illinois	88.01	17.29	32.74	13.06
54	Virginia Tech	87.75	11.47	42.45	10.45
55	Iowa St	87.50	15.67	35.34	11.33
56	Arizona St	87.40	16.01	38.84	7.15
57	Utah St	87.26	14.25	40.04	7.93
58	Illinois St	87.16	23.23	33.26	2.50
59	Georgia Southern	86.39	15.45	35.61	8.60
60	Cincinnati	86.23	13.61	43.03	3.22
61	Virginia	85.78	14.18	35.77	8.60
62	Western Michigan	85.18	14.57	40.31	2.05
63	Indiana	85.08	16.03	42.00	-1.84
64	San Diego St	84.73	13.54	30.79	11.81
65	Central Michigan	84.68	12.31	31.53	12.58
66	Kansas St	84.67	11.56	35.63	9.47
67	Minnesota	84.62	14.32	29.51	11.78
68	Kentucky	84.59	14.64	35.60	5.20
69	East Carolina	84.56	11.82	37.56	6.92
70	Harvard	84.40	10.89	34.15	11.14
71	Maryland	84.00	11.55	37.84	5.58
72	Arizona	83.66	11.67	44.15	-1.72
73	South Florida	83.60	9.06	33.29	12.45
74	Marshall	83.54	16.18	28.77	7.35
75	Missouri	83.28	10.39	23.58	19.62
76	Louisiana Tech	83.25	9.94	39.20	4.50
77	Air Force	83.09	9.22	36.98	7.29
78	Nebraska	82.99	5.50	43.59	5.38
79	South Carolina	81.46	9.30	32.72	7.36
80	Syracuse	81.42	6.10	40.40	3.84
81	Rutgers	81.25	11.96	37.06	-1.06
82	Northern Illinois	80.59	3.94	40.41	4.65
83	Portland St	80.07	10.18	31.39	4.04
84	Tulsa	79.74	7.47	39.96	-1.75



85	South Dakota St	79.54	7.32	29.39	8.52
86	Arkansas St	79.52	10.07	37.47	-3.27
87	Dartmouth	79.50	6.51	28.37	10.54
88	North Dakota St	79.33	9.31	31.84	2.91
89	James Madison	79.19	5.98	44.51	-5.67
90	Boston College	78.30	-2.14	26.05	21.39
91	Connecticut	78.10	3.43	28.78	10.75
92	Jacksonville St	77.51	9.03	27.87	2.68
93	Chattanooga	77.44	8.65	24.19	6.71
94	Ohio U.	77.39	7.76	27.52	4.43
95	Purdue	77.31	2.07	37.19	2.15
96	Southern Miss	76.78	3.18	33.34	3.21
97	Vanderbilt	76.75	1.62	22.53	16.03
98	Dartmouth	76.00	10.00	20.37	25.49
99	Wake Forest	75.92	-0.91	27.99	11.87
100	Richmond	75.72	7.57	32.70	-4.65
101	William & Mary	75.63	2.75	31.44	2.81
102	Buffalo	75.39	1.49	32.10	3.22
103	Coastal Carolina	75.13	7.71	30.38	-4.00
104	Oregon St	74.69	1.91	27.72	5.31
105	Northern Iowa	74.58	4.51	21.84	7.41
106	Colorado	74.29	-1.01	29.43	6.48
107	Southern Utah	74.19	-0.52	27.67	7.32
108	San José St	73.86	0.63	29.98	2.67
109	Western Illinois	73.50	4.00	27.67	-0.41
110	Charleston Southern	73.19	3.64	24.69	2.26
111	The Citadel	72.95	1.07	29.36	0.43
112	Middle Tennessee St	72.87	-4.50	38.59	-1.58
113	North Carolina A&T	72.75	8.04	21.33	-1.34
114	Youngstown St	72.27	-1.67	29.96	1.77
115	Fordham	72.13	1.48	38.08	-10.89
116	Akron	72.00	-1.87	23.24	8.09
117	Tulane	71.09	0.10	27.24	-0.83
118	Troy	70.50	-7.58	31.27	3.92
119	Colorado St	70.13	-6.05	31.67	0.55
120	Towson	69.91	-1.95	24.95	1.24
121	Ball St	69.64	-5.08	28.46	1.26
122	Nevada	69.57	-4.47	25.18	3.54
123	Pennsylvania	69.43	-3.29	32.35	-5.55
124	UNLV	69.39	-8.99	31.80	2.49
125	Rice	69.37	-1.14	28.91	-5.13
126	SMU	68.95	-7.81	32.71	-1.09
127	Eastern Washington	68.80	2.32	29.40	-11.67
128	Princeton	68.32	-4.16	29.21	-4.04
129	Louisiana-Lafayette	68.09	-5.82	27.32	-0.50
130	Eastern Illinois	67.69	-0.13	24.04	-5.81
131	Indiana St	67.06	-5.47	25.65	-1.88
132	Villanova	66.97	-7.15	18.12	7.68
133	Massachusetts	66.91	-9.09	31.33	-3.10
134	Eastern Kentucky	66.86	-5.84	25.38	-1.61



135	Florida Int'l	66.80	-9.34	24.19	4.10
136	Southern Illinois	66.78	-11.19	35.97	-5.29
137	South Alabama	66.61	-3.88	25.85	-5.31
138	Kent St	66.52	-4.03	19.15	1.36
139	Kansas	66.51	-6.05	24.15	-0.96
140	Texas St-San Marcos	66.36	-6.12	32.38	-9.50
141	Western Carolina	66.23	-4.26	25.52	-5.42
142	Idaho	65.93	-6.09	29.69	-7.90
143	Fresno St	64.93	-6.95	28.80	-8.37
144	Army	64.68	-13.45	27.07	1.39
145	Tennessee-Martin	64.66	-2.90	30.20	-15.85
146	Bethune-Cookman	64.61	2.04	22.53	-14.90
147	New Mexico	64.43	-9.54	24.69	-2.06
148	South Dakota	64.41	-7.77	18.49	1.72
149	Central Arkansas	64.06	-7.68	21.55	-2.34
150	Montana	63.71	-9.92	20.22	1.10
151	Hawai'i	63.59	-10.04	24.03	-2.83
152	Furman	63.57	-6.23	15.21	0.85
153	Wofford	63.14	-10.76	22.23	-1.21
154	Dayton	62.53	-0.89	14.29	-7.93
155	Brown	62.49	-10.33	27.77	-8.93
156	Grambling St	62.37	-2.97	27.26	-18.53
157	Old Dominion	62.26	-7.33	20.87	-6.60
158	Colgate	62.03	-8.82	17.79	-2.12
159	Florida Atlantic	61.71	-14.72	23.61	-0.87
160	Holy Cross	61.51	-14.89	24.49	-2.04
161	SE Missouri St	61.10	-13.67	20.08	-0.27
162	Yale	61.08	-9.90	17.91	-3.17
163	Samford	61.07	-15.12	29.62	-7.96
164	Sam Houston St	60.93	-15.81	31.66	-9.43
165	Northern Arizona	60.80	-9.96	26.88	-12.77
166	Lehigh	60.43	-10.04	20.75	-7.45
167	Louisiana-Monroe	60.24	-16.51	24.34	-2.90
168	Georgia St	59.98	-13.72	22.15	-5.07
169	New Hampshire	59.87	-14.20	22.89	-5.44
170	Texas-San Antonio	59.55	-17.92	21.64	-0.04
171	Weber St	59.39	-11.36	17.15	-4.71
172	North Dakota	59.20	-11.68	17.55	-5.16
173	Cal Poly SLO	59.18	-17.97	29.89	-9.16
174	Wyoming	58.61	-19.51	23.64	-2.27
175	Central Florida	58.48	-18.36	21.70	-2.19
176	Liberty	58.32	-15.64	23.66	-8.18
177	Elon	58.15	-12.91	12.02	-0.59
178	Eastern Michigan	57.94	-18.10	31.82	-14.00
179	Montana St	57.79	-19.17	34.39	-15.53
180	Miami OH	57.74	-17.79	20.39	-3.49
181	Alcorn St	57.73	-14.18	22.48	-10.40
182	Delaware	57.58	-16.40	14.48	0.17
183	North Texas	57.34	-13.67	21.85	-11.42
184	Maine	56.84	-18.55	17.44	-1.78



185	Bryant	56.58	-19.38	21.90	-5.77
186	Kennesaw St	56.35	-15.71	20.30	-9.65
187	UTEP	56.15	-15.80	19.99	-9.72
188	Stony Brook	56.10	-22.23	14.41	4.31
189	St Francis PA	55.99	-19.82	21.37	-6.15
190	Georgetown DC	55.69	-18.60	19.10	-6.24
191	South Carolina St	55.62	-16.87	12.62	-2.25
192	New Mexico St	55.58	-18.19	29.89	-17.85
193	San Diego	55.36	-15.64	13.58	-5.50
194	Stephen F. Austin	55.24	-15.45	20.83	-13.31
195	UNC-Charlotte	55.06	-18.16	18.29	-7.61
196	North Carolina Central	54.89	-10.23	11.59	-11.90
197	Monmouth NJ	54.80	-19.74	15.08	-2.93
198	SE Louisiana	54.70	-18.73	15.46	-4.91
199	Lamar	53.75	-23.73	27.16	-12.30
200	Columbia	53.42	-23.59	9.15	4.67
201	Jacksonville FL	52.37	-16.74	12.86	-10.79
202	Duquesne	52.26	-21.88	12.61	-3.97
203	Tennessee St	51.98	-17.68	10.32	-7.98
204	Northwestern St	51.48	-20.89	27.26	-21.88
205	Gardner-Webb	50.15	-25.57	9.46	-1.17
206	Bucknell	50.06	-25.16	9.29	-1.75
207	Northern Colorado	50.01	-23.31	19.41	-14.46
208	Prairie View A&M	49.99	-16.96	24.03	-27.60
209	Tennessee Tech	49.88	-23.42	17.19	-12.41
210	Albany NY	49.75	-24.67	14.92	-8.82
211	Hampton	49.61	-22.51	13.11	-10.23
212	Mercer	49.15	-32.52	18.74	-3.68
213	Norfolk St	48.72	-19.51	9.34	-12.69
214	Central Conn St	48.72	-26.70	15.94	-9.71
215	Southern U.	48.41	-20.08	17.10	-20.47
216	VMI	48.12	-28.39	21.49	-14.49
217	Morgan St	47.60	-21.18	7.37	-11.29
218	Murray St	47.36	-30.00	20.27	-13.03
219	Rhode Island	47.31	-29.95	12.44	-5.41
220	UC-Davis	45.78	-32.21	18.43	-12.19
221	Morehead St	45.70	-26.91	15.10	-16.15
222	Sacred Heart	45.39	-33.23	15.15	-8.54
223	Sacramento St	45.35	-30.36	9.93	-7.23
224	Presbyterian	45.27	-33.70	9.03	-2.09
225	Missouri St	45.14	-22.39	12.85	-21.31
226	Idaho St	44.10	-27.17	15.97	-20.67
227	Marist	43.08	-31.66	8.82	-10.06
228	Alabama St	41.31	-29.31	8.54	-17.35
229	Lafayette	39.94	-35.69	7.18	-10.90
230	Robert Morris PA	39.61	-39.18	5.22	-5.14
231	Drake	39.60	-35.27	8.56	-13.69
232	Alabama A&M	39.28	-30.04	4.76	-17.66
233	Cornell NY	38.71	-41.53	13.94	-12.96
234	Nicholls St	37.31	-37.25	8.51	-16.74



235	Howard	37.24	-34.22	11.18	-23.61
236	Austin Peay	37.24	-38.36	7.55	-14.48
237	Butler	36.54	-38.41	10.39	-19.00
238	Florida A&M	35.89	-38.32	8.95	-19.30
239	Campbell	35.19	-43.85	5.32	-10.05
240	Jackson St	35.06	-35.60	8.65	-24.71
241	Wagner	31.34	-47.17	10.65	-20.57
242	Savannah St	30.79	-37.12	4.66	-29.35
243	Delaware St	28.42	-46.64	2.17	-20.09
244	Texas Southern	27.99	-44.49	1.83	-23.70
245	Stetson	25.70	-49.31	2.98	-24.15
246	Houston Baptist	24.59	-51.08	0.30	-21.87
247	East Tennessee St	23.53	-46.71	1.25	-31.30
248	Valparaiso	21.30	-50.27	0.57	-31.47
249	Mississippi Valley St	21.07	-48.23	-4.02	-30.17
250	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	18.48	-56.78	-2.53	-26.73
251	Davidson	13.66	-61.67	-4.22	-30.57

