

RATINGS 10-15-16

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 in my new book *Sports Math* (pre-order on Amazon before they're all gone!) and www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html on my website. Last week was not a great week for the ratings, picking 72% winners (for context, favorites won 77%) and 47% against the spread. I hope this will not be a trend, but the purpose of the ratings is to gain some perspective on how teams stack up.

A brief tutorial on reading the ratings: the "overall" number combines points ratings and win ratings. The "win" column shows the ratings using only schedule and wins-losses. The points ratings are broken down into "offense" and "defense" ratings (points = offense + defense). The offense rating is how many points the team would score against an average defense. The defense rating is how many points better (if positive, worse if negative) the defense is than the average defense. I should say that this is all about points. An up-tempo offense or bad special teams or lots of pick-sixes are points that count against the "defense" here.

Both #2 and #3 went to overtime last week. NC State has to be (pardon the expression) kicking themselves over that loss. The Pack tries again for a signature win at Louisville this week. Alabama looked unbeatable against a tired Tennessee team. You'll notice that the Vols are still top ten in the ratings here. If you're really #10, you're supposed to lose to #2 and #4, and the ratings don't penalize you for doing just that.

On October 22 exactly 27 years ago, Houston trumped SMU 95-21 in a classless display of power. SMU was restarting their program after the Death Penalty, and Houston let SMU score and threw deep passes at the end of the game to try to reach 100. This week Houston is only a 26-point favorite against a Chad Morris team that has never returned to glory. The background celebrates an SMU championship season 50 years ago, a surprise Southwest Conference championship sandwiched between Arkansas and Texas national championships. SMU was led by a sophomore (in the day of freshmen ineligible) who was the first black football player in the SWC. He earned a place in the College Football Hall of Fame and had a solid NFL career despite his 5'7" stature. Jim Dent's excellent book *The Kids Got It Right* tells about the first Texas-Pennsylvania high school all-star battle. The five-star "triple-threat" all-everything back "Dollar" Bill Bradley and this shy young man formed an unlikely friendship, after Texas legends Doak Walker and Bobby Layne (former high school teammates) got the governor to approve an integrated team. It's a good story about some good people helping society take a small step forward. I'm curious if many of you can name this outstanding athlete and person (or even if you have heard of him).

Some disjointed thoughts on other games:

Thursday night in Blacksburg used to be awesome. Miami coming to town should get everybody excited. The Hokies need to win to keep their division lead.

I doubt that San Jose State and San Diego State are on your must-watch list, but be aware that SDS's Donnel Pumphrey is the #1 running back in the nation right now, as indicated by the numerology of his current 1111 yards with 11 touchdowns.

Vegas has West Virginia as a mere 4-point favorite, even after last week's burning of Texas Tech. The ratings here are impressed with the Mountaineers.

UNC and NC State are both on the road in games with palindromic 42-24 scores. The Heels are expected to party in Charlottesville, with the Wolfpack getting taken out at Papa Johns.

Arkansas brings its A-game to Auburn led by QB Austin Allen.

Vegas has Alabama a 17-point favorite over Texas A&M with the Aggies coming off a bye week. Alabama is scary-good, but that's more points than the ratings want to give.

Here are the predictions. Scores come from the ratings. For example, Virginia Tech has a 122 overall rating, 1 better than Miami's 121. Add 4 points for home field and the Hokies are a 5-point favorite. Match Tech's offense rating of 40.9 against Miami's defense rating of 15.8 and predict Tech to score $40.9 - 15.8 = 25$ points. Miami should score $43.2 - 18.5 = 25$ points, also. That needs to be adjusted to make a 5-point difference, so Virginia Tech 28, Miami 23.

Predictions:

Virginia Tech 28, Miami 23

North Carolina 42, Virginia 24

Louisville 42, NC State 24

West Virginia 41, TCU 19

LSU 30, Ole Miss 28

Auburn 29, Arkansas 20

Ohio State 36, Penn State 20

Alabama 37, Texas A&M 28

UCLA 21, Utah 20

And here are this week's ratings.

		Overall	Win	Offense	Defense
1	Michigan	146.3	81.9	61.6	26.5
2	Alabama	144.1	85.2	52.8	25.4
3	Ohio State	142.6	80.5	56.8	23.8
4	Texas A&M	139.5	85.9	51.1	14.7
5	Clemson	139.3	82.9	47.7	21.6
6	Washington	134.1	73.2	51.2	18.1
7	West Virginia	133.0	77.4	40.1	20.9
8	Louisville	132.0	67.6	60.5	10.8
9	Florida St	130.6	73.4	43.8	16.4
10	Tennessee	129.6	75.7	46.2	8.3
11	Western Michigan	129.5	71.8	44.2	15.4
12	Nebraska	129.2	73.9	39.4	16.6
13	Wisconsin	129.0	65.0	38.9	28.6
14	Boise St	129.0	75.2	38.6	15.0
15	Auburn	128.9	65.7	44.2	21.9
16	Houston	128.3	68.5	46.2	14.7
17	Washington St	128.1	68.0	47.5	13.7
18	Colorado	126.4	63.5	43.6	19.3
19	Mississippi	125.6	62.0	54.7	8.2
20	Oklahoma	125.4	63.8	50.4	9.5
21	Southern Cal	124.8	65.2	42.1	14.6
22	Stanford	124.5	66.7	33.3	20.5
23	North Carolina	123.7	67.1	41.2	10.0
24	LSU	123.6	57.4	38.4	25.7
25	Arkansas	123.5	66.3	37.8	14.0
26	Florida	123.3	62.4	34.7	21.9
27	South Florida	122.9	62.4	48.3	7.2
28	Penn State	122.1	63.1	41.2	11.5
29	Virginia Tech	122.0	57.9	40.9	18.5
30	Utah	121.6	66.7	30.1	16.6
31	Navy	121.2	65.0	37.3	10.6
32	Miami FL	121.1	56.3	43.2	15.9
33	North Dakota St	120.1	65.2	28.9	15.9
34	Pittsburgh	119.4	60.8	46.0	2.9
35	Memphis	119.2	54.8	44.6	12.0
36	Baylor	118.5	53.3	46.5	10.3
37	Arizona St	118.4	60.3	43.2	3.9
38	Brigham Young	118.2	57.2	38.6	12.1
39	North Carolina St	118.1	54.2	37.6	17.0
40	UCLA	117.9	55.2	35.2	17.6
41	Troy	117.1	56.9	36.4	12.2
42	Georgia Tech	117.0	56.0	33.9	15.6

43	Wake Forest	117.0	57.5	31.9	15.4
44	Minnesota	116.7	56.4	35.5	12.6
45	Toledo	116.3	55.9	44.4	3.3
46	Iowa	115.9	54.9	35.1	13.0
47	Oklahoma St	115.7	51.8	42.8	8.9
48	Appalachian St	115.7	56.8	25.9	19.1
49	TCU	115.4	52.1	45.9	4.7
50	Eastern Washington	115.2	57.5	52.8	-9.8
51	Kansas St	115.2	48.6	38.2	16.6
52	Northwestern	113.9	50.5	38.1	10.7
53	Tulsa	113.8	53.7	42.5	1.9
54	Air Force	113.7	52.4	37.7	8.2
55	Indiana	113.2	50.7	36.3	10.6
56	Georgia	113.1	53.7	31.8	10.8
57	Wyoming	112.3	55.0	36.7	2.3
58	Chattanooga	111.8	55.9	29.4	7.0
59	The Citadel	111.7	59.9	23.8	7.1
60	Central Michigan	111.4	53.5	35.2	3.6
61	San Diego St	111.4	53.1	28.9	10.3
62	California	111.1	49.6	48.4	-5.3
63	Central Florida	111.1	44.3	40.2	9.9
64	Samford	110.8	54.6	39.0	-3.3
65	Youngstown St	110.4	51.2	29.6	9.7
66	Temple	110.4	44.6	38.6	9.4
67	Oregon	110.0	46.2	47.4	-2.5
68	Maryland	109.8	47.5	32.6	10.0
69	Texas Tech	109.1	42.8	52.9	-5.7
70	Kentucky	108.6	49.9	33.4	3.1
71	South Dakota St	108.0	48.2	39.1	-1.8
72	Charleston Southern	107.5	51.1	37.0	-4.7
73	Sam Houston St	107.4	48.4	42.7	-7.1
74	Vanderbilt	107.4	44.8	29.0	11.4
75	Syracuse	107.2	43.7	34.9	6.3
76	Jacksonville St	106.6	44.5	33.2	5.4
77	Arizona	106.6	43.3	37.0	3.1
78	Tulane	106.4	42.0	31.2	10.2
79	Colorado St	106.2	44.9	33.0	4.1
80	Texas	106.1	38.3	42.1	3.7
81	Connecticut	106.1	45.0	28.1	8.8
82	Akron	105.9	45.8	41.6	-6.3
83	Western Kentucky	105.8	39.7	42.7	0.4
84	Duke	105.7	38.8	28.7	15.2
85	Missouri	105.6	37.2	42.1	3.7
86	Louisiana Tech	105.5	40.4	42.6	-1.1
87	Western Illinois	105.4	52.3	27.5	-2.1

88	Old Dominion	105.4	43.0	39.3	-1.6
89	Oregon St	105.3	43.9	31.7	4.6
90	South Carolina	104.8	41.0	22.1	16.8
91	Middle Tennessee St	104.5	40.6	35.4	3.3
92	Central Arkansas	104.5	41.9	30.9	5.9
93	Mississippi St	104.4	36.1	38.6	5.6
94	Utah St	104.2	40.6	30.1	7.9
95	Georgia Southern	103.5	40.1	35.1	1.7
96	Cincinnati	103.4	41.3	27.1	8.0
97	Coastal Carolina	103.3	40.4	34.9	0.9
98	Michigan St	102.9	35.6	35.2	6.3
99	Eastern Michigan	102.8	45.2	26.7	1.5
100	East Carolina	102.7	35.9	37.7	2.8
101	Idaho	102.6	46.9	27.0	-1.7
102	Montana	102.6	36.7	41.6	-2.6
103	Boston College	102.5	39.3	31.2	4.3
104	New Mexico	102.4	43.0	35.7	-5.5
105	Cal Poly SLO	102.4	40.9	35.1	-2.1
106	Illinois	102.2	39.8	28.4	5.6
107	Virginia	102.2	38.2	32.7	3.3
108	Richmond	101.9	44.6	28.4	-1.5
109	Notre Dame	101.8	30.1	40.8	5.1
110	Wofford	100.7	38.9	20.3	11.3
111	Southern Miss	100.3	35.7	40.9	-6.3
112	Army	100.1	27.5	36.2	8.8
113	James Madison	100.0	37.9	37.9	-6.9
114	Rutgers	99.9	40.6	24.7	2.6
115	Ohio U.	99.9	38.3	30.1	0.2
116	Arkansas St	99.6	36.7	26.1	5.4
117	Grambling St	98.5	40.8	23.6	-0.2
118	South Alabama	98.4	35.9	24.8	4.9
119	North Dakota	98.1	38.7	25.0	0.1
120	UNLV	98.1	34.8	34.2	-3.9
121	SMU	98.0	32.7	27.3	5.7
122	Hawai`i	97.9	35.1	32.1	-2.6
123	Northern Illinois	97.5	32.8	33.2	-1.8
124	Ball St	97.4	31.5	28.1	4.9
125	Texas-San Antonio	96.7	31.9	23.6	7.2
126	Purdue	96.6	35.5	32.6	-6.8
127	Mercer	96.4	37.7	29.9	-7.6
128	Georgia St	96.1	28.6	29.3	4.3
129	Villanova	95.8	34.1	17.5	8.0
130	Louisiana-Monroe	95.6	35.0	25.8	-2.0
131	Northern Iowa	95.1	25.3	21.2	14.3
132	Stony Brook	94.9	38.6	12.2	5.1

133	South Dakota	94.8	35.2	32.8	-11.3
134	North Carolina A&T	94.2	35.1	29.8	-9.6
135	Lehigh	94.0	30.1	33.6	-7.4
136	Missouri St	93.6	31.1	24.5	-0.4
137	Kent St	93.5	27.3	25.9	2.9
138	Eastern Illinois	93.4	33.9	26.8	-7.1
139	Southern Utah	93.4	33.6	20.4	-0.3
140	Louisiana-Lafayette	93.3	31.2	28.2	-5.0
141	Iowa St	92.9	21.4	30.8	4.5
142	Illinois St	92.9	28.2	20.7	5.3
143	Lamar	92.7	31.7	21.2	-0.3
144	Liberty	92.5	25.5	28.7	0.0
145	North Texas	92.3	27.1	27.9	-1.6
146	Marshall	91.7	25.4	31.1	-4.1
147	Bowling Green	90.4	29.1	27.0	-8.3
148	Albany NY	89.8	26.2	21.5	-0.3
149	Tennessee St	89.5	29.5	22.9	-6.8
150	Texas St-San Marcos	89.2	29.3	29.6	-14.4
151	Nevada	89.2	23.7	18.1	4.6
152	Maine	88.7	26.0	18.2	0.4
153	Florida Int'l	88.7	25.2	24.0	-4.4
154	San José St	88.6	24.2	26.1	-5.3
155	Northern Arizona	88.5	24.1	19.6	1.0
156	Massachusetts	88.3	19.8	24.7	1.2
157	Kansas	88.3	20.2	22.6	2.7
158	Weber St	88.2	29.3	20.0	-6.9
159	South Carolina St	88.1	30.6	14.8	-3.8
160	San Diego	88.1	22.2	23.6	-1.5
161	New Mexico St	88.0	30.1	27.2	-15.8
162	Fordham	87.9	26.8	32.0	-16.4
163	Sacred Heart	87.7	29.1	23.5	-11.5
164	Furman	87.6	19.9	25.0	-1.0
165	Fresno St	86.9	21.2	23.1	-2.5
166	Indiana St	86.9	24.0	29.8	-13.0
167	Miami OH	86.6	17.7	16.2	8.2
168	New Hampshire	86.3	24.4	17.9	-3.3
169	Prairie View A&M	86.1	31.7	17.8	-13.1
170	UNC-Charlotte	86.1	21.5	24.7	-6.6
171	Kennesaw St	86.0	22.7	25.2	-8.9
172	Southern U.	86.0	24.0	30.6	-16.2
173	Duquesne	85.9	25.6	25.6	-13.3
174	VMI	85.9	26.5	15.8	-5.0
175	North Carolina Central	85.5	30.3	19.3	-14.3
176	Tennessee-Martin	85.4	18.4	28.4	-7.8
177	SE Louisiana	85.2	23.6	24.9	-11.9

178	Northern Colorado	85.0	21.7	20.4	-5.2
179	Monmouth NJ	84.9	25.2	14.5	-4.4
180	Gardner-Webb	84.7	20.5	17.0	-1.1
181	Princeton	84.1	19.6	23.4	-7.9
182	Harvard	83.9	22.3	19.3	-7.6
183	UC-Davis	83.9	20.5	21.6	-7.7
184	Colgate	83.6	15.2	26.7	-6.4
185	Southern Illinois	82.8	9.5	35.1	-9.3
186	Cornell NY	82.7	21.6	16.4	-6.8
187	Nicholls St	82.4	18.0	25.6	-12.0
188	Dartmouth	82.3	19.7	12.0	-1.1
189	Dayton	81.4	17.7	15.7	-4.3
190	Towson	81.3	14.6	26.7	-11.4
191	Florida Atlantic	80.8	9.7	24.3	-3.6
192	Tennessee Tech	80.6	12.3	20.1	-3.5
193	Western Carolina	80.6	15.4	23.4	-11.0
194	William & Mary	80.6	15.8	16.7	-4.8
195	Presbyterian	80.5	23.7	7.7	-6.6
196	Portland St	80.4	15.5	23.9	-12.0
197	SE Missouri St	80.4	10.6	13.9	4.5
198	Pennsylvania	80.4	15.6	17.9	-6.3
199	Rice	79.5	5.9	22.1	0.5
200	Delaware	78.9	9.6	20.4	-4.4
201	UTEP	78.6	12.9	13.2	-2.2
202	Buffalo	78.5	9.3	20.4	-4.8
203	St Francis PA	78.3	8.1	15.2	1.3
204	East Tennessee St	78.1	19.9	11.2	-11.0
205	Alcorn St	77.4	19.2	16.5	-17.0
206	Northwestern St	76.9	7.6	19.0	-5.4
207	McNeese*St	76.0	10.0	13.8	8.2
208	Eastern Kentucky	75.9	5.9	23.9	-10.5
209	McNeese St	75.9	6.9	14.1	-2.1
210	Hampton	74.9	13.8	6.6	-6.1
211	Houston Baptist	74.8	13.5	12.5	-11.9
212	Holy Cross	74.4	9.1	22.0	-16.5
213	Stephen F. Austin	73.2	9.9	19.8	-18.5
214	Idaho St	72.6	12.0	16.1	-19.0
215	Bucknell	72.6	6.7	7.3	-3.4
216	Florida A&M	72.2	15.0	10.1	-18.1
217	Texas Southern	72.0	9.7	9.3	-10.7
218	Montana St	71.0	0.6	16.2	-7.9
219	Elon	70.8	5.3	11.2	-9.8
220	Murray St	70.5	-4.7	19.8	-5.8
221	Drake	70.4	9.1	11.4	-16.1
222	Georgetown DC	70.3	6.2	6.4	-7.4

223	Yale	69.9	4.7	16.2	-16.3
224	Jackson St	69.5	8.8	7.1	-13.6
225	Sacramento St	67.0	3.1	10.0	-15.2
226	Alabama St	66.3	1.5	10.4	-15.1
227	Marist	65.9	2.4	7.3	-14.2
228	Austin Peay	65.8	-3.1	19.1	-18.9
229	Robert Morris PA	65.7	-4.4	8.1	-6.4
230	Alabama A&M	64.8	2.7	9.6	-19.6
231	Rhode Island	64.4	0.0	10.2	-17.7
232	Jacksonville FL	64.4	-0.5	13.2	-20.0
233	Savannah St	64.3	5.3	-3.8	-10.9
234	Lafayette	64.0	-6.5	13.9	-13.6
235	Bethune-Cookman	63.7	-4.6	12.0	-15.0
236	Howard	63.4	0.6	13.4	-24.2
237	Columbia	63.0	-6.1	9.8	-12.6
238	Morgan St	61.0	1.2	1.2	-18.8
239	Norfolk St	60.9	-4.7	2.9	-12.7
240	Morehead St	59.4	-5.5	13.1	-25.7
241	Valparaiso	58.2	-6.8	5.9	-19.8
242	Stetson	57.8	-11.0	2.0	-11.4
243	Campbell	57.6	-6.6	4.7	-20.4
244	Bryant	57.3	-18.7	18.1	-18.5
245	Brown	55.8	-15.5	7.0	-15.2
246	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	55.4	-5.7	4.2	-26.7
247	Butler	53.7	-15.8	5.9	-19.0
248	Delaware St	52.8	-13.0	7.8	-27.0
249	Central Conn St	52.7	-22.3	11.2	-18.0
250	Mississippi Valley St	51.7	-10.5	3.3	-28.5
251	Davidson	42.9	-31.0	4.4	-24.2

