

RATINGS 11-19-16

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* (now available!) and my (redesigned!) website www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html. In a much calmer week of football, the ratings picked 75% winners and went 54% against the spread.

One more week of regular season games, then the conference championships and we're off to the bowls! By now, the ratings have stabilized. In fact, they look remarkably like the official committee rankings. Because of the way that strength of schedule factors into the ratings, it is easy to tell which conference(s) the ratings pick as the best. This is an interesting year with only one SEC team in the top 14. The Pac-12 has 5, the Big 10 has 4, the ACC 3, and the Big 12 has 1 in the top 14! The SEC is bunched together in the 15-22 range.

Texas and TCU, both with only 5 wins, play in what may be Charlie Strong's last game with the Horns. The Texas buyout is reported at \$10 million to Strong in addition to the \$20 million to Louisville for buying his services 3 years ago. Even in Texas that's some strong cash. The Horns and Frogs are 2 of 16 teams that need a win this week to become bowl eligible. That's significant because there are 65 bowl-eligible teams right now and 80 bowl slots to fill. Which means that my statement is probably not right; not all of those 16 teams need to win to get in a bowl, because the bowls will probably be taking teams with losing records.

The game with the biggest playoff implications is Ohio State and Michigan. If Michigan wins and Wisconsin beats Minnesota, that makes a Michigan-Wisconsin rematch, with a likely playoff berth for the winner. An Ohio State win coupled with a Penn State win over Michigan State puts Penn State in the championship game and puts the committee in a tough spot. Do you put in a two-loss Wisconsin or Penn State over a 1-loss Ohio State? What if Minnesota upsets Wisconsin and Nebraska wins the Big 10? We may well have more upsets coming to make two Big 10 teams plausible, but the committee may have a big mess. Oklahoma, in the meantime, is cleaning house in the Big 12. My ratings are not especially impressed, but the loss at Houston now looks better. The other loss is at Ohio State, and the committee may have to choose between 1-loss non-champion Ohio State and 2-loss champion Oklahoma. Another committee issue may be with the Group of 5, the second-tier conferences whose highest ranked team gets a major bowl bid. Right now it's between undefeated Western Michigan and one-loss Boise State, which will need some help from New Mexico to get to its conference championship game. Are conference championships still essential at this level? This could get controversial!

It's Rivalry Week, with 15 different states having "University of" matchups with land grant or private state rivals. Sadly, Texas and Texas A&M do not make the number 16, as the two rivals no longer play. The SEC-ACC matchups account for the rivalry games in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Kentucky. We'll see if the ratings bias towards the ACC is warranted.

Not all of our current rivalry games have a long history. Florida versus Florida State only dates back to 1958, when the Florida state legislature forced them to play. The 1966 game was one of the wildest. With Florida State trailing 22-19, qb Gary Pajcik threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to sub Lane Fenner with 17 seconds (picture in the background) to win ... except that Fenner was ruled out of bounds, preserving Florida's march to the Orange Bowl behind Heisman winner Steve Spurrier. You'll notice in the picture that Fenner is not very close to being out of bounds; the ruling was that he bobbled the ball long enough to go out of bounds. If you're wondering, the 1966 Ohio State – Michigan game was a 17-3 Wolverine win that ended the Buckeyes' season at 4-5. Hard to imagine.

Lots of games this week! Here are the predictions.

Virginia Tech 38, Virginia 10

TCU 30, Texas 29

Ohio State 30, Michigan 25

Penn State 42, Michigan State 14

Western Michigan 40, Toledo 28

Boise State 36, Air Force 26

Wyoming 42, New Mexico 38

Georgia 26, Georgia Tech 24

Florida State 24, Florida 17

Washington 33, Washington State 32

Arizona State 40, Arizona 33

Oregon State 38, Oregon 37

Alabama 31, Auburn 10

Indiana 45, Purdue 25

Southern Cal 42, Notre Dame 16

And here are the ratings:

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Alabama	143.5	87.0	48.9	27.6
2	Ohio State	141.3	81.0	53.2	25.6
3	Michigan	139.9	79.2	53.1	24.9
4	Clemson	134.5	78.5	47.3	18.0
5	Washington	133.6	74.8	49.3	18.8
6	Colorado	131.6	73.4	44.1	20.9
7	Wisconsin	131.6	73.8	40.4	23.8
8	Penn State	131.1	75.6	45.8	14.9
9	Southern Cal	130.3	73.0	42.4	19.6
10	Washington St	128.8	69.5	49.0	14.0
11	Louisville	128.7	67.3	54.1	11.8
12	Oklahoma	128.3	69.4	53.5	8.6
13	Florida St	127.6	70.7	44.6	13.9
14	Stanford	126.9	70.4	35.1	22.1
15	Auburn	126.5	66.5	40.8	20.6
16	Nebraska	126.5	72.7	36.2	16.7
17	Boise St	126.0	71.5	40.4	12.9
18	LSU	125.4	64.2	36.4	25.1
19	Tennessee	125.1	69.7	47.4	6.2
20	North Carolina	124.9	68.6	42.4	12.0
21	Texas A&M	124.8	66.5	41.3	15.7
22	Florida	124.6	68.6	32.7	20.9
23	West Virginia	124.4	67.8	39.1	15.1
24	Western Michigan	124.2	67.2	44.5	10.2
25	Oklahoma St	123.5	65.1	45.4	10.4
26	Houston	123.5	65.0	42.1	13.8
27	Virginia Tech	123.2	64.9	40.0	15.2
28	Utah	122.1	65.0	37.0	15.5
29	Pittsburgh	122.0	63.7	50.1	3.5
30	South Florida	121.5	65.0	48.6	2.2
31	Navy	121.5	65.6	42.6	7.3
32	Iowa	121.2	62.6	34.7	18.6
33	Minnesota	120.9	64.1	38.7	11.8
34	Miami FL	119.9	57.7	40.6	16.0
35	Tulsa	119.9	61.2	47.6	4.3
36	North Dakota St	119.7	67.6	29.6	13.2
37	Mississippi	118.3	57.6	47.7	5.0
38	Arkansas	118.3	62.2	40.3	6.1
39	Brigham Young	118.1	57.5	37.3	15.0
40	Temple	117.9	57.7	38.6	13.1
41	Georgia Tech	117.9	60.6	36.8	10.8
42	San Diego St	117.1	57.3	36.1	14.0
43	Kansas St	117.0	55.0	38.0	14.8
44	Toledo	116.7	58.4	40.7	6.8



45	Georgia	116.3	60.6	31.8	11.7
46	Memphis	116.1	53.9	43.1	9.1
47	Wyoming	115.3	59.9	43.1	-0.9
48	Northwestern	115.0	52.3	36.9	14.6
49	Western Kentucky	114.8	53.0	44.5	5.7
50	Eastern Washington	114.6	58.3	42.8	-0.4
51	Indiana	114.5	54.7	38.3	8.6
52	TCU	114.1	51.5	39.8	10.7
53	Appalachian St	114.1	57.3	28.9	13.5
54	Troy	114.0	57.5	35.4	6.6
55	UCLA	113.9	50.8	38.0	12.7
56	Arizona St	112.6	53.0	41.1	3.4
57	Air Force	112.1	54.4	37.4	4.1
58	Oregon	111.9	51.2	47.7	-2.6
59	Central Florida	111.5	48.7	36.9	10.7
60	Baylor	110.8	47.4	41.3	6.3
61	North Carolina St	110.8	48.2	33.2	13.3
62	Colorado St	110.8	51.1	35.3	7.3
63	California	110.4	50.4	48.0	-5.5
64	The Citadel	110.3	59.9	26.4	3.1
65	Louisiana Tech	110.1	48.2	44.0	0.6
66	Wake Forest	110.0	50.8	28.0	13.0
67	Vanderbilt	109.8	49.3	28.3	14.2
68	Kentucky	109.5	51.4	35.4	3.6
69	Maryland	109.4	50.3	33.6	6.5
70	South Dakota St	109.3	52.4	37.9	-0.8
71	Texas	109.2	44.5	39.1	8.4
72	South Carolina	109.1	51.0	25.3	13.0
73	Notre Dame	108.7	41.4	41.6	8.8
74	Mississippi St	108.7	47.6	40.5	1.4
75	Arkansas St	108.2	49.5	30.4	8.0
76	Oregon St	108.0	44.9	35.3	8.5
77	Michigan St	107.6	40.4	37.2	11.6
78	Youngstown St	107.5	50.0	25.2	10.6
79	New Mexico	107.3	50.2	36.4	-1.3
80	Jacksonville St	107.2	49.8	28.4	6.9
81	Sam Houston St	106.5	45.7	45.3	-6.3
82	Duke	106.5	43.8	31.7	9.8
83	SMU	106.4	46.4	33.1	4.9
84	James Madison	106.4	46.7	41.5	-4.1
85	Chattanooga	106.3	49.6	29.7	3.7
86	Texas Tech	105.0	39.9	48.7	-5.8
87	Old Dominion	104.8	45.9	34.9	-0.4
88	Idaho	104.6	50.3	27.8	0.5
89	Boston College	104.5	45.1	27.8	6.9



90	Wofford	104.3	48.1	23.7	6.7
91	Ohio U.	104.1	45.7	28.2	4.8
92	Syracuse	104.0	44.8	32.1	1.9
93	Central Michigan	103.8	44.3	31.6	2.4
94	Iowa St	103.1	35.1	35.8	8.8
95	Illinois	102.7	42.5	28.6	5.1
96	North Dakota	102.4	47.0	24.5	2.5
97	Middle Tennessee St	102.2	42.5	35.4	-2.8
98	Charleston Southern	102.2	44.1	31.4	-1.1
99	Northern Iowa	101.8	37.9	28.8	9.1
100	Arizona	101.6	40.1	34.7	-0.3
101	Northern Illinois	101.4	38.8	32.2	3.4
102	Missouri	101.4	36.8	39.1	-0.9
103	Central Arkansas	101.3	42.5	26.1	4.3
104	Cincinnati	100.7	39.3	23.7	9.3
105	Samford	100.6	43.2	31.1	-3.5
106	Coastal Carolina	100.3	40.5	31.8	-1.2
107	Utah St	100.2	36.9	31.0	4.1
108	Eastern Michigan	100.2	41.4	29.7	-0.7
109	Tulane	99.3	35.4	28.1	6.6
110	Illinois St	99.2	38.7	24.3	5.9
111	East Carolina	99.1	35.8	35.4	-1.8
112	South Alabama	98.9	38.5	25.8	3.9
113	Virginia	98.9	33.6	30.9	5.3
114	Hawai`i	98.9	41.2	28.3	-2.2
115	Army	98.9	33.3	29.6	6.9
116	Villanova	98.8	39.9	18.6	8.9
117	Miami OH	98.5	37.5	24.1	5.9
118	Purdue	98.4	38.4	35.1	-6.6
119	Cal Poly SLO	98.3	39.8	31.6	-5.2
120	Western Illinois	97.9	39.9	28.5	-3.2
121	UNLV	97.8	35.6	36.6	-5.8
122	Akron	97.7	38.2	33.8	-6.7
123	Georgia Southern	97.5	34.9	28.4	2.5
124	Texas-San Antonio	97.4	34.9	29.0	1.7
125	Rutgers	97.4	37.7	26.6	0.4
126	Connecticut	96.3	34.8	20.9	7.3
127	Louisiana-Lafayette	96.1	36.0	25.6	0.4
128	North Texas	95.7	34.9	25.4	0.9
129	Southern Utah	95.7	35.4	27.4	-1.8
130	Lehigh	95.5	34.5	33.1	-6.6
131	San José St	95.5	33.6	28.8	-1.2
132	Richmond	95.5	37.2	27.1	-4.3
133	Southern Miss	95.4	32.3	32.9	-3.9
134	South Dakota	95.2	34.6	31.8	-6.1



135	Mercer	94.1	36.9	24.4	-4.6
136	Kent St	94.0	31.9	23.0	3.1
137	Louisiana-Monroe	93.9	37.1	28.1	-8.9
138	Ball St	93.9	30.2	28.6	-0.4
139	Georgia St	93.9	30.4	23.9	4.1
140	Nevada	93.7	31.9	24.3	1.3
141	Montana	93.5	28.4	33.0	-3.5
142	Bowling Green	93.3	33.3	29.3	-6.6
143	Kennesaw St	93.0	33.6	29.2	-7.7
144	Weber St	92.9	35.6	21.8	-3.2
145	Kansas	92.6	28.8	25.7	1.2
146	Liberty	92.5	32.5	24.2	-2.6
147	Northern Arizona	91.9	30.1	26.0	-2.6
148	Grambling St	91.5	30.9	25.6	-4.3
149	Florida Int'l	91.2	29.4	24.2	-1.5
150	North Carolina A&T	91.1	35.9	23.4	-9.9
151	New Mexico St	91.0	31.8	27.8	-9.1
152	New Hampshire	90.6	31.5	20.7	-2.6
153	Princeton	90.5	27.8	24.7	-1.9
154	Massachusetts	90.2	26.0	29.0	-4.5
155	Northern Colorado	90.1	29.8	25.6	-6.4
156	Maine	90.0	32.0	20.1	-3.9
157	Albany NY	89.7	29.9	19.7	-1.6
158	Tennessee-Martin	89.5	27.9	23.4	-3.1
159	Southern Illinois	89.4	24.5	29.3	-4.7
160	Furman	89.3	24.1	26.1	-1.3
161	UNC-Charlotte	89.1	26.8	25.3	-4.6
162	Fordham	88.6	29.3	28.3	-12.0
163	Eastern Illinois	88.5	28.4	22.6	-5.5
164	Indiana St	88.0	26.6	25.6	-7.3
165	Tennessee Tech	88.0	26.6	22.6	-4.3
166	Marshall	88.0	22.5	25.4	-1.8
167	Fresno St	87.2	21.8	21.2	1.6
168	SE Louisiana	87.1	27.9	24.0	-9.8
169	Missouri St	86.9	29.0	22.7	-10.4
170	Duquesne	86.7	26.4	24.3	-9.0
171	North Carolina Central	86.6	35.0	15.4	-11.9
172	Gardner-Webb	86.2	24.9	18.5	-2.5
173	San Diego	85.8	21.1	23.8	-3.6
174	Southern U.	85.7	28.0	24.9	-14.2
175	Nicholls St	85.5	21.2	25.3	-6.0
176	Florida Atlantic	85.5	21.3	24.7	-5.7
177	Stony Brook	85.4	25.2	12.7	1.1
178	Pennsylvania	85.3	24.9	17.4	-3.7
179	Rice	84.7	20.3	24.6	-6.3



180	Montana St	84.1	20.0	18.3	-1.1
181	William & Mary	83.7	22.6	17.4	-4.6
182	McNeese St	83.5	17.1	24.2	-4.4
183	Buffalo	83.3	20.0	19.3	-4.1
184	Tennessee St	83.2	23.7	23.5	-13.3
185	UTEP	82.8	19.0	22.1	-6.6
186	East Tennessee St	82.6	26.9	10.4	-6.0
187	Colgate	82.5	16.6	21.7	-4.0
188	Portland St	82.3	16.8	28.6	-11.5
189	St Francis PA	81.7	17.7	17.7	-3.1
190	Western Carolina	81.6	18.9	24.3	-11.7
191	UC-Davis	81.6	17.6	21.0	-6.7
192	Delaware	81.3	18.0	18.0	-5.1
193	Texas St-San Marcos	81.0	22.9	19.9	-14.1
194	Harvard	80.7	20.5	15.7	-7.5
195	VMI	80.4	17.5	15.9	-4.5
196	Murray St	80.0	17.1	22.0	-10.9
197	Dayton	79.6	17.9	16.4	-7.5
198	SE Missouri St	79.5	12.4	15.0	1.0
199	Towson	79.5	16.9	18.3	-8.4
200	Prairie View A&M	79.2	21.9	19.2	-16.8
201	South Carolina St	78.2	18.0	11.6	-6.4
202	Monmouth NJ	77.9	16.5	17.9	-11.4
203	Lamar	77.7	13.9	14.6	-5.1
204	Idaho St	76.6	13.9	21.4	-14.6
205	Wagner	76.0	10.0	15.5	10.4
206	Houston Baptist	75.4	16.6	11.2	-11.2
207	Bryant	74.6	8.6	21.9	-13.2
208	Stephen F. Austin	74.5	11.2	21.2	-16.1
209	Eastern Kentucky	74.2	7.5	17.3	-8.0
210	Alcorn St	73.8	13.5	15.9	-15.6
211	Presbyterian	73.2	13.3	5.6	-6.6
212	Dartmouth	73.2	8.4	10.7	-5.1
213	Bucknell	73.1	7.3	11.2	-4.4
214	Bethune-Cookman	73.0	12.3	12.9	-13.1
215	Drake	72.9	13.3	12.1	-13.9
216	Sacramento St	72.7	9.1	18.9	-15.5
217	Sacred Heart	72.2	7.7	16.5	-12.5
218	Hampton	71.2	13.3	6.8	-12.9
219	Holy Cross	70.2	7.1	15.6	-15.7
220	Florida A&M	70.0	14.4	8.7	-19.2
221	Cornell NY	69.6	6.2	15.2	-15.8
222	Rhode Island	68.2	6.3	13.2	-17.4
223	Yale	68.2	5.2	12.3	-15.0
224	Brown	67.6	3.6	9.5	-11.6



225	Northwestern St	67.0	-1.6	15.4	-11.9
226	Elon	66.9	4.3	6.7	-11.5
227	Alabama A&M	66.7	8.8	11.5	-22.7
228	Columbia	66.7	0.0	12.5	-12.0
229	Texas Southern	66.7	4.9	6.9	-13.0
230	Austin Peay	66.2	0.8	20.7	-22.4
231	Lafayette	65.9	-0.6	14.5	-15.2
232	Norfolk St	65.6	5.7	3.1	-13.0
233	Savannah St	65.4	8.4	2.2	-16.2
234	Alabama St	63.6	0.1	7.4	-14.8
235	Georgetown DC	63.1	-4.5	4.2	-6.6
236	Robert Morris PA	62.9	-5.1	5.7	-8.1
237	Jacksonville FL	62.6	-1.6	16.4	-24.1
238	Central Conn St	62.5	-6.3	14.1	-15.7
239	Jackson St	61.8	-0.3	2.0	-13.4
240	Howard	60.7	-0.6	7.9	-21.6
241	Marist	59.9	-6.2	10.4	-18.7
242	Morehead St	56.8	-10.6	14.5	-24.8
243	Morgan St	56.0	-4.9	2.2	-21.8
244	Valparaiso	55.4	-9.7	6.4	-21.2
245	Campbell	55.2	-11.6	6.0	-18.8
246	Stetson	55.0	-12.1	4.9	-17.5
247	Butler	52.0	-16.1	5.1	-19.9
248	Delaware St	51.0	-12.3	2.5	-24.8
249	Mississippi Valley St	49.6	-9.5	0.4	-30.0
250	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	47.0	-11.8	-2.4	-30.7
251	Davidson	37.0	-35.7	-4.1	-22.0

