

RATINGS 10-12-19

Welcome to the first posting in the 2019 edition of By the Numbers! This is my 20th year of putting the ratings online – and therefore on the line. You can find past editions at the website (if you can tolerate orange) www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html . This is a rating system that uses wins, losses, points for and against, and schedule (and nothing else) to rank college football teams. Full descriptions of the system are in my book *Sports Math* (available on Amazon!) and at the website. In spite of the numerous factors missing from the system, it does well predicting games, historically getting 75% winners and 54% against the spread. Not bad for a system that utilizes very little information.

ESPN has been airing documentaries in honor of the 150th anniversary of college football. To call the Princeton-Rutgers 1869 game “football” is stretching things a bit, but it is certainly 50 years since we celebrated the 100th anniversary so I guess that adds up. I’ll be giving some 50th anniversary tidbits as we go.

The ratings come in several flavors. Point ratings use schedule and net points. The “Win” ratings use schedule and wins-losses, multiplied by 27 to make them look like point totals. “Overall” is 60% Point ratings plus 40% win ratings – in the past, this has been a combination that predicts games well. “Offense” uses schedule and points for and against to compute the number of points each team would score against an average defense. Ohio State is top rated at 60.93 and, for reference, Washington State has an average defense at -0.09. So, the Buckeyes would be expected to put up 61 points on WSU. “Defense” measures the number of points better or worse than average scored against the team. Believe it or not, Oregon is #1 here, allowing 30.73 fewer points per game than the average defense would allow against the teams the Ducks have played. To predict a game, take the difference between overall ratings after adding 4 points to the home team to get the overall prediction. The score comes from one team’s offense rating minus the other team’s defense rating.

After several top 25 matchups last week, this week’s games are lower profile. There’s Michigan/Penn State and a couple of games out west. Times have changed, as both of the PAC-12 games have predicted scores well below 30. The highlighted games below feature three under-the-radar unbeaten teams. Having grown up in Dallas, it’s fun for me to see SMU unbeaten and ranked. The background picture is of the 1969 SMU quarterback who was famous for throwing 30-50 passes per game, unheard-of in a big-time conference like the SWC (history lesson: Southwest Conference). He never made it in the pros, but he put up big numbers for the Mustangs, throwing to Jerry LeVias and others. Name him. For extra credit, name the eight members of the SWC.

This week’s predictions:

Reality check #2 for Harbaugh: Penn State 35, Michigan 20

Ducks unbeaten in conference: Oregon 27, Washington 17

The Utes versus Old Herm: Utah 17, Arizona State 16

Methodists rule the Temple? SMU 42, Temple 20

The Boise are Back: Boise State 38, BYU 18

Appalachian snowfall: App State 55, ULM 31

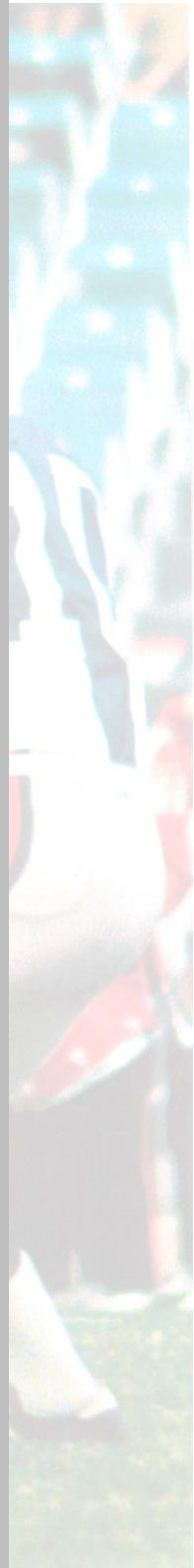
Two upsets in a row? Florida 24, South Carolina 15

Commonwealth vs Tobacco Road: Virginia 29, Duke 27 UNC 35, VT 24

The Usual Mismatch/Rout? Wake Forest 42, Florida State 34

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Ohio St	124.87	64.34	60.93	28.43
2	Wisconsin	120.95	60.79	54.32	30.00
3	Oregon	119.41	62.64	47.26	30.73
4	Auburn	117.14	61.83	49.67	23.73
5	Alabama	116.55	55.36	59.86	20.69
6	Oklahoma	112.87	52.71	58.38	16.50
7	LSU	112.53	54.03	59.87	12.42
8	Clemson	112.24	56.11	44.75	24.02
9	Penn St	112.10	51.18	51.20	23.80
10	Florida	108.22	51.06	41.37	24.07
11	Boise St	108.01	57.19	41.78	14.98
12	Notre Dame	106.92	48.38	45.55	20.23
13	SMU	106.57	55.15	51.17	4.71
14	Arizona St	106.11	53.38	35.09	22.01
15	Baylor	105.27	51.05	44.42	13.66
16	Cincinnati	105.25	50.12	39.22	20.06
17	Washington	105.10	46.04	45.19	19.16
18	Texas	105.08	45.73	49.01	15.72
19	Michigan St	103.73	44.65	42.39	20.39
20	Georgia	103.66	41.84	45.56	20.78
21	Missouri	103.63	43.30	44.36	19.96
22	Iowa St	103.33	42.76	48.38	15.93
23	Utah	102.63	40.21	39.67	26.29
24	Minnesota	101.89	50.77	40.87	9.14
25	California	101.09	45.64	33.80	21.06
26	UCF	100.92	39.77	52.74	9.51

27	Michigan	100.85	44.27	40.35	15.74
28	Hawaii	100.37	49.12	43.40	5.04
29	Navy	99.91	43.38	44.16	10.75
30	Iowa	99.87	39.31	34.00	26.26
31	Appalachian St	99.57	46.50	44.99	4.92
32	Oklahoma St	99.12	39.30	49.51	8.88
33	Wake Forest	98.65	43.55	46.24	5.31
34	USC	97.81	35.97	45.04	14.51
35	Memphis	97.79	41.20	41.93	10.61
36	Texas A&M	97.26	34.44	45.42	14.81
37	Tulane	97.13	37.42	43.63	12.28
38	Kansas St	96.87	38.25	36.24	17.92
39	Stanford	96.33	37.33	37.08	16.94
40	Arizona	95.55	40.96	40.26	6.99
41	North Carolina	95.16	35.66	37.41	15.93
42	South Carolina	94.63	30.97	41.37	16.91
43	Louisville	94.20	38.51	44.12	3.01
44	Florida St	94.15	38.78	40.00	6.66
45	Duke	93.95	35.21	40.68	10.24
46	TCU	93.83	32.37	42.34	12.05
47	Colorado	93.42	37.79	41.58	4.56
48	Utah St	93.39	34.71	37.45	12.75
49	Pittsburgh	93.30	37.74	28.95	16.98
50	Texas Tech	93.11	33.91	38.46	12.10
51	San Diego St	93.10	38.09	24.65	20.30
52	Mississippi St	92.83	33.75	40.40	9.68
53	Air Force	92.73	34.58	38.31	10.39
54	Montana	92.46	33.04	42.81	7.28
55	Virginia	91.87	33.05	37.11	11.49
56	Wyoming	91.67	33.82	39.15	7.92
57	N Dakota St	91.51	33.19	37.75	9.76
58	West Virginia	90.08	32.48	36.37	8.52
59	Miami FL	89.60	27.67	37.41	12.70
60	FL Atlantic	89.41	31.46	36.13	8.43
61	Indiana	89.33	26.99	38.92	11.40
62	Nebraska	88.69	31.34	34.75	8.18
63	W Michigan	88.64	28.78	38.98	7.24
64	Temple	88.46	32.32	30.93	10.12
65	Kentucky	88.16	27.81	34.20	12.11
66	Mississippi	87.97	25.47	37.90	11.04
67	Tulsa	87.37	29.01	32.07	10.68
68	Southern Miss	87.14	30.76	33.73	6.10
69	Louisiana	86.81	25.05	37.01	9.61



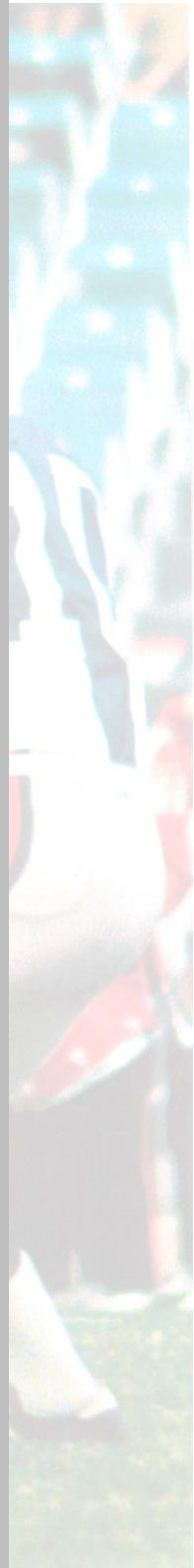
70	Kent	86.80	31.67	34.32	3.43
71	Nevada	86.42	40.22	31.44	-6.03
72	Louisiana Tech	85.75	30.33	33.89	3.03
73	WKU	85.44	31.22	23.50	11.46
74	Washington St	85.34	18.62	51.60	-0.09
75	Purdue	84.95	23.39	35.26	8.92
76	Northwestern	84.84	19.24	29.45	20.00
77	Georgia St	84.60	29.82	42.31	-7.57
78	Syracuse	84.48	26.05	34.73	4.72
79	Toledo	84.44	26.53	30.95	7.76
80	Fresno St	83.97	21.70	36.66	7.32
81	NC State	83.94	25.82	27.19	11.22
82	CS Sacramento	83.90	21.89	34.34	9.20
83	BYU	83.89	22.14	36.89	6.32
84	Oregon St	83.88	20.35	40.96	4.60
85	Houston	83.66	17.80	38.20	10.20
86	South Florida	83.31	25.27	29.84	7.73
87	James Madison	83.20	23.61	34.35	5.15
88	Maryland	82.83	18.31	39.67	5.98
89	Arkansas St	81.90	24.92	35.38	-0.88
90	Tennessee	81.68	18.80	30.21	11.92
91	Cent Arkansas	80.88	29.95	26.59	-1.33
92	UCLA	80.73	16.81	37.56	4.85
93	S Dakota St	80.67	20.42	30.49	6.93
94	Virginia Tech	80.47	22.35	32.05	2.32
95	UAB	80.19	24.00	30.19	1.27
96	Weber St	80.08	24.08	24.93	6.15
97	Texas St	80.02	22.71	20.48	12.29
98	ULM	79.87	22.02	38.01	-4.70
99	C Michigan	79.80	19.63	32.66	3.65
100	Boston College	79.64	19.40	34.16	2.05
101	Miami OH	79.59	21.52	32.17	1.10
102	Army	79.43	18.42	30.46	6.55
103	Marshall	79.33	20.50	28.77	5.21
104	North Texas	79.00	16.64	38.15	0.16
105	Northern Iowa	78.67	19.31	25.43	8.49
106	Florida Intl	78.27	18.65	29.48	4.32
107	Idaho St	78.14	16.01	34.56	2.43
108	Ball St	77.33	16.84	34.72	-0.87
109	Liberty	76.89	18.91	21.02	8.97
110	San Jose St	76.43	17.73	30.67	-0.24
111	Kansas	76.13	13.69	29.82	5.25
112	Arkansas	76.06	9.56	32.92	7.48



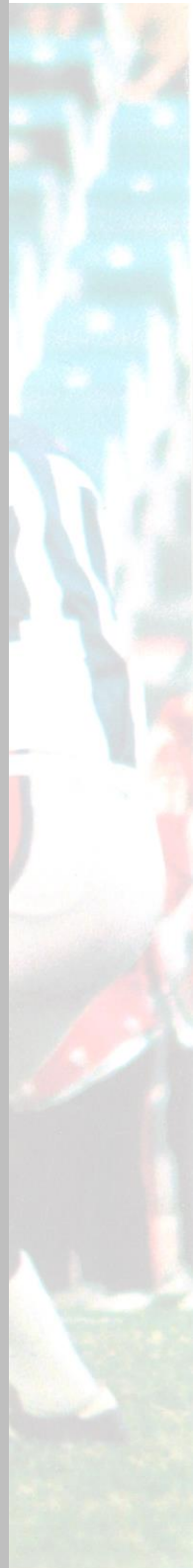
113	Dartmouth	75.80	16.32	24.05	6.69
114	Nicholls St	75.75	21.00	29.66	-5.28
115	Ga Southern	75.16	16.83	26.47	1.98
116	Furman	74.31	10.66	28.10	6.45
117	Kennesaw	74.24	13.94	29.30	0.70
118	Illinois	73.88	10.95	34.19	-1.11
119	Coastal Car	73.87	13.03	26.42	3.86
120	TN Martin	73.58	14.34	27.16	0.66
121	MTSU	73.46	13.53	28.60	-0.01
122	Buffalo	73.44	10.59	30.37	2.11
123	Montana St	73.39	15.06	27.69	-1.30
124	UNLV	73.31	12.08	30.45	-0.29
125	E Michigan	73.21	15.01	27.66	-1.67
126	Troy	73.07	10.16	36.67	-4.56
127	UC Davis	72.16	9.68	32.78	-2.28
128	East Carolina	72.11	13.75	22.72	2.21
129	Villanova	71.67	11.66	31.06	-4.45
130	Georgia Tech	71.05	9.17	26.79	1.59
131	Youngstown St	71.00	10.00	28.46	6.30
132	Charlotte	70.92	12.56	33.77	-10.22
133	South Dakota	70.91	8.34	27.94	1.19
134	N Illinois	70.73	8.18	27.68	1.25
135	Vanderbilt	70.66	7.50	27.02	2.62
136	Bowling Green	70.56	16.15	20.62	-2.75
137	Rice	70.53	5.51	23.26	8.70
138	NC A&T	70.47	13.11	24.17	-2.48
139	New Hampshire	70.25	13.02	16.70	4.56
140	Portland St	70.16	8.07	25.98	1.66
141	Ohio	69.48	4.24	31.64	-0.60
142	Florida A&M	69.18	21.62	16.57	-9.47
143	Colorado St	68.80	3.85	34.70	-4.84
144	North Dakota	68.77	9.43	25.26	-2.91
145	Yale	68.60	13.25	23.88	-7.06
146	Austin Peay	67.79	9.70	25.88	-6.36
147	Illinois St	67.62	8.94	15.68	4.43
148	UT San Antonio	66.85	10.39	19.05	-2.79
149	Princeton	66.85	2.93	25.28	0.92
150	McNeese St	66.82	8.55	21.57	-2.94
151	SE Louisiana	66.78	5.76	29.40	-7.14
152	Elon	66.58	7.48	22.45	-2.98
153	Sam Houston St	66.37	4.53	21.67	1.20
154	New Mexico	65.82	4.78	29.89	-8.73
155	Towson	65.60	2.97	28.97	-5.95



156	E Washington	65.44	1.09	34.65	-9.53
157	Southern Univ	65.33	5.90	23.07	-4.62
158	SE Missouri St	65.13	6.90	23.29	-6.68
159	Stony Brook	65.09	4.02	26.28	-5.93
160	Alcorn St	64.92	4.28	24.20	-4.61
161	Monmouth NJ	63.85	3.27	23.49	-5.23
162	Wofford	63.66	4.02	17.82	-1.03
163	Holy Cross	63.54	8.38	12.71	-2.06
164	UTEP	62.87	4.36	16.32	-1.98
165	Rutgers	62.71	2.61	17.87	-1.58
166	Abilene Chr	62.70	0.10	22.00	-2.39
167	Northern Arizona	62.59	2.13	33.76	-17.14
168	SUNY Albany	62.46	-4.12	27.60	-2.97
169	Incarnate Word	62.34	7.90	18.70	-10.38
170	S Illinois	62.17	0.48	20.54	-2.76
171	Connecticut	62.05	0.35	23.13	-5.47
172	Delaware	61.89	2.97	23.50	-9.74
173	Jacksonville St	61.68	3.23	21.61	-8.72
174	Old Dominion	61.66	-2.22	18.91	1.19
175	Central Conn	61.41	1.77	19.81	-5.67
176	Idaho	61.00	-2.26	23.54	-5.03
177	Cal Poly	60.89	-0.69	24.36	-8.21
178	Harvard	60.87	-5.11	25.10	-3.12
179	South Alabama	60.83	-1.90	15.60	1.98
180	New Mexico St	60.72	-4.70	27.01	-5.95
181	San Diego	60.27	-3.15	24.89	-7.03
182	S Carolina St	59.75	4.03	26.07	-19.08
183	Houston Bap	59.61	-3.48	33.44	-16.79
184	Murray St	59.35	0.47	19.14	-8.41
185	Lamar	59.17	1.06	17.20	-7.69
186	Dayton	59.04	2.33	29.38	-21.90
187	VMI	58.54	0.16	26.14	-17.00
188	ETSU	58.29	-3.79	13.00	0.79
189	Ark Pine Bluff	57.34	-3.12	19.62	-9.13
190	Bethune-Cookman	57.32	4.26	10.61	-10.00
191	SF Austin	56.91	-4.51	23.58	-12.31
192	Prairie View	56.75	-8.73	28.23	-11.73
193	Richmond	56.05	-4.32	15.21	-6.33
194	Samford	55.85	-5.59	31.75	-21.69
195	Penn	55.46	-9.18	20.37	-6.49
196	Chattanooga	55.29	-5.81	18.98	-10.02
197	William & Mary	55.18	-12.07	22.13	-5.10
198	Duquesne	55.16	-3.82	12.81	-6.83



199	Tennessee Tech	55.06	-4.04	27.13	-21.09
200	Indiana St	54.92	-7.88	11.83	-1.04
201	Alabama St	54.90	-5.20	11.64	-4.48
202	Campbell	54.89	-2.16	13.15	-10.05
203	Robert Morris	54.53	-4.63	12.68	-7.18
204	E Kentucky	54.39	-10.24	17.58	-4.96
205	Citadel	54.37	-9.57	17.95	-6.29
206	Grambling	53.88	-11.45	14.38	-1.42
207	Fordham	53.35	-6.41	18.20	-13.30
208	Southern Utah	53.18	-10.18	22.49	-12.97
209	Drake	53.00	-7.93	15.10	-9.04
210	Maine	52.55	-13.79	18.55	-5.79
211	Georgetown	51.77	-14.57	15.69	-3.86
212	Northwestern LA	51.49	-11.67	20.17	-12.89
213	N Colorado	51.37	-11.78	12.91	-5.79
214	Rhode Island	50.47	-16.62	20.63	-9.32
215	Missouri St	50.21	-12.54	17.77	-12.53
216	Gardner Webb	49.90	-4.73	9.92	-15.89
217	Hampton	49.24	-8.30	20.79	-23.62
218	Wagner	48.95	-18.31	10.82	-1.05
219	Davidson	48.64	-14.81	16.56	-12.23
220	Akron	48.58	-16.04	10.58	-4.76
221	St Francis PA	47.85	-16.25	12.37	-8.10
222	Columbia	47.17	-21.53	12.07	-2.46
223	Norfolk St	47.14	-14.18	17.98	-18.22
224	Charleston So	47.04	-18.18	19.06	-14.22
225	Sacred Heart	46.21	-19.56	17.07	-12.47
226	Massachusetts	45.75	-12.62	19.41	-25.21
227	Mercer	45.21	-20.66	19.56	-16.01
228	Lehigh	44.95	-19.71	4.15	-2.49
229	Bucknell	43.56	-19.09	13.26	-15.91
230	Cornell	43.30	-25.31	8.81	-3.82
231	North Alabama	42.30	-21.71	13.68	-15.99
232	NC Central	41.93	-17.41	2.78	-11.75
233	Morgan St	41.81	-18.29	13.54	-21.62
234	Alabama A&M	41.18	-20.36	10.18	-17.09
235	E Illinois	40.46	-26.87	7.37	-7.39
236	Brown	39.62	-26.30	18.91	-21.81
237	Tennessee St	38.13	-29.55	16.01	-18.30
238	Jackson St	37.25	-26.77	16.56	-24.75
239	Colgate	37.03	-30.30	9.48	-13.50
240	W Illinois	36.58	-34.55	8.70	-8.20
241	Lafayette	36.33	-36.46	13.44	-11.01



242	Morehead St	36.23	-23.48	11.51	-26.64
243	Bryant	35.19	-31.86	4.32	-10.87
244	Jacksonville	34.52	-28.50	7.05	-19.77
245	Howard	34.29	-25.68	11.91	-28.94
246	W Carolina	33.10	-32.99	12.80	-23.08
247	TX Southern	32.94	-29.93	17.12	-31.89
248	MS Valley St	32.22	-33.96	3.78	-14.96
249	Butler	31.93	-31.20	7.90	-23.49
250	Stetson	31.15	-33.00	5.89	-21.03
251	LIU Post	30.76	-40.63	7.74	-13.70
252	Marist	30.38	-34.79	3.04	-17.72
253	Valparaiso	29.26	-33.52	3.11	-22.28
254	Merrimack	29.25	-43.35	11.85	-17.95
255	Delaware St	28.44	-34.77	-6.57	-12.96
256	Presbyterian	23.06	-43.33	0.00	-21.58
257	VA-Lynchburg	10.43	-60.71	-0.38	-29.60

SMU'S MR. FORWARD PASS, quarterback Chuck Hixson, is the busiest and often the best aerialist in Southwest Conference history, although he usually is operating in the eye of the hurricane, surrounded by large and hostile agents of the opposition. This year SMU's indispensable Mustang takes his final fling at the record book and the Ponies' tough schedule of opponents, and, like Texas Tech's Jim Dyer (No. 75, above), they will take their final cracks at him.

