

RATINGS 11-09-19

Welcome back to By the Numbers! This is a rating system that uses wins, losses, points for and against, and schedule (and nothing else) to rank college football teams. Descriptions of the system are at the website www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html .

Saturday was full of failed two-point conversions. Iowa State lost to Oklahoma 42-41 trying for the win with 24 seconds left. Iowa lost to Wisconsin 24-22, missing the tie with 17 seconds left. Missed fourth-quarter conversions cost Penn State, South Carolina, Arizona State, Kent State, and Northwestern likely overtimes.

Some big wins for LSU, Minnesota, and Illinois! How do you win at both North Carolina and South Carolina? There's an App (State) for that.

The Playoff Committee's job did not get easier. There's a real issue with how they rank the large number of one-loss teams (my ratings like Oregon!). Some of the "expert" commentary this week made me mad, but an ESPN post this morning shortened this week's rant. First, the bad: several people are glad the committee is using the "eye test" instead of just number-crunching. I thought we had evolved past the "evil-computer" bit. Everybody uses numbers (won-lost record, perhaps?) so why not use smart numbers? And the "eye test" has a large portion of personal prejudice: are LSU's and Alabama's offenses awesome or are their defenses bad? And, there was much discussion about strength of schedule that was downright silly. When you think about it, "strength of schedule" is not well defined. Would you rather play a four-game stretch against two great teams and two horrible teams, or against four good teams? It depends on who you are. A great team has an easy 4-0 against schedule 2, but might lose against schedule 1. A mediocre team can go 2-2 against schedule 1, but might go 0-4 against schedule 2. The ESPN post phrased strength of schedule in the following way. Take an "average top 25 team" – well, this is ambiguous; let's say we take #20 in the country. What's the probability that this team has the same or better record against the same schedule? The probability that #20 goes 9-0 against LSU's schedule is less than 1%. The probability that #20 goes 10-0 against Clemson's schedule is 25%. This is a clear statement about strength of schedule. Is it the right definition? No! If we're deciding the top four for the playoffs, why are we looking at #20? Wouldn't #10 be better? But I love the use of probability, and it was great to see an intelligent statement about strength of schedule.

Not much going on this week with major playoff implications. Here are 4 important games:

Auburn 24, Georgia 19

Utah 38, UCLA 16 (but Chip Kelly's bunch is getting better!)

Minnesota 24, Iowa 21

Baylor 31, Oklahoma 30 (another 2-point conversion gone bad?)

Okay, I'm not quite ready to let go of the strength of schedule thing. I do not like the implication that the SEC schedule is automatically the hardest. Who are the two worst Power 5 Conference teams? I've got Arkansas and Vanderbilt *from the SEC!* While we're wallowing in the bottom, let's look at 1-8 Northwestern, favored by 36 this week because they play the lowest-ranked FBS team, #229 UMass. Second worst is #225 Akron, with 0 wins for the Zips. By contrast, 0-9 New Mexico State is a powerhouse at #182. The Aggies are also favored to win this week, by the grace of good scheduling.

Northwestern 42, UMass 6
New Mexico State 32, Incarnate Word 27

The ACC Coastal is still bunched, with three teams at 2 losses and three teams at 3 losses. When everybody's in contention, all the games are important! This week's:

Virginia Tech 31, Georgia Tech 23
Pittsburgh 26, North Carolina 21

Fifty years ago the bowl that had the most to do with a national championship was Texas against Notre Dame. Both teams have close games with bowl implications this week.

Texas 38, Iowa State 35
Notre Dame 32, Navy 27

This week's main look into the hazy past with a hazy background picture is from 60 years ago. LSU has only had one Heisman Trophy winner, in 1959. The winner's Heisman moment was a game-winning 89 yard punt return against Ole Miss. A last-minute goal-line stand preserved the Tigers' 7-3 victory, keeping LSU #1 in the polls. (Buzz kill: the Tigers lost the following week and Syracuse was national champion with future Heisman winner Ernie Davis). Joe Burrow is considered the Heisman front-runner now, but can you name the first LSU winner and the date of his canonical run? He went on to star in the AFL with the Houston Oilers and then the Oakland Raiders as a tight end. Extra credit if you can make a worse/better pun than this: musically this person is exemplified by Minnesota's Row Your Boat theme. Boom! Challenge thrown down. This year's LSU / Ole Miss game, by the way, is not likely to end 7-3.

LSU 42, Ole Miss 14

And the ratings:

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Ohio St	132.61	70.31	63.50	29.21
2	LSU	126.37	72.52	56.72	17.45
3	Oregon	122.93	67.52	50.13	22.09

4	Penn St	121.57	64.10	49.42	23.97
5	Clemson	120.25	61.77	50.00	23.20
6	Alabama	119.61	58.60	57.31	18.51
7	Auburn	118.62	61.19	44.58	25.31
8	Wisconsin	118.22	57.23	48.35	25.82
9	Georgia	117.61	59.71	44.74	24.62
10	Oklahoma	117.45	58.35	57.15	13.61
11	Florida	116.98	59.27	46.70	21.66
12	Utah	116.93	60.35	41.92	24.87
13	Minnesota	116.69	65.22	44.73	14.97
14	Baylor	114.24	61.13	43.07	15.96
15	Michigan	114.03	56.46	44.69	20.04
16	Cincinnati	113.25	60.42	40.62	16.87
17	Notre Dame	113.08	57.57	42.89	17.98
18	Navy	111.87	55.83	45.22	14.94
19	Memphis	111.27	57.92	46.88	9.01
20	SMU	110.35	58.23	51.67	1.49
21	Washington	109.99	50.84	43.88	18.25
22	Boise St	109.86	58.56	39.98	11.51
23	Iowa	109.60	49.80	37.00	25.54
24	Texas	109.39	52.04	48.81	10.20
25	Oklahoma St	109.31	52.04	48.43	10.37
26	Kansas St	108.85	50.84	40.12	19.15
27	USC	108.78	53.37	44.18	11.56
28	Iowa St	107.60	46.07	47.90	14.61
29	UCF	107.09	47.24	51.83	7.83
30	Air Force	106.96	51.96	39.25	13.81
31	Texas A&M	105.39	45.52	43.75	13.96
32	Appalachian St	104.52	48.11	40.93	11.17
33	Michigan St	103.73	42.42	39.53	18.16
34	Wake Forest	103.55	48.79	41.26	7.48
35	Virginia	102.76	45.95	39.64	10.92
36	Indiana	102.75	43.38	40.94	13.01
37	BYU	102.46	48.23	37.34	9.45
38	Louisiana	102.15	42.56	39.43	14.13
39	Miami FL	101.95	43.30	37.03	15.04
40	Arizona St	101.84	43.89	34.87	16.15
41	California	101.59	44.20	30.07	19.90
42	Tulane	101.37	42.43	44.16	7.62
43	Mississippi St	101.22	41.49	43.37	9.29
44	TCU	100.26	37.98	40.56	14.37
45	Pittsburgh	99.95	44.74	28.70	16.46
46	Tennessee	99.94	40.86	34.36	15.93



47	Louisville	99.82	44.35	42.13	3.20
48	San Diego St	99.76	48.03	22.93	17.36
49	Utah St	99.47	45.45	35.01	7.99
50	North Carolina	99.07	38.83	39.11	11.73
51	Missouri	98.81	37.06	37.76	14.78
52	Florida St	98.63	41.96	36.11	9.44
53	Wyoming	98.58	42.63	33.40	11.14
54	UCLA	98.53	40.30	40.33	7.19
55	Illinois	98.44	40.51	39.15	7.86
56	Hawaii	98.27	44.59	42.15	-0.99
57	Stanford	98.13	39.83	32.53	14.62
58	Oregon St	97.52	38.22	40.71	7.06
59	FL Atlantic	97.21	38.48	38.43	8.21
60	N Dakota St	97.08	39.78	36.70	7.89
61	South Carolina	96.89	34.14	38.82	12.83
62	Washington St	96.88	32.61	50.00	3.66
63	Kentucky	96.69	36.00	31.64	17.03
64	Temple	96.68	42.70	29.38	10.32
65	Louisiana Tech	96.41	41.43	36.51	4.20
66	Virginia Tech	96.31	39.98	36.05	6.34
67	Texas Tech	96.15	34.08	39.07	10.79
68	Tulsa	95.96	36.68	34.92	11.01
69	Mississippi	94.65	31.30	36.23	13.60
70	W Michigan	94.57	36.09	37.60	5.63
71	Duke	94.54	34.55	36.50	8.71
72	Purdue	94.43	34.54	36.23	8.73
73	Colorado	94.21	36.15	34.32	7.95
74	Nebraska	94.18	33.79	37.57	7.76
75	Montana	94.04	36.56	36.04	5.25
76	Weber St	93.87	40.64	29.60	5.82
77	James Madison	93.72	34.90	36.83	5.88
78	Fresno St	93.35	34.09	39.18	3.67
79	Arizona	93.32	35.21	39.56	1.74
80	Arkansas St	93.31	37.82	37.72	0.07
81	Miami OH	93.26	39.47	30.48	4.97
82	Southern Miss	93.13	35.44	32.80	7.70
83	Boston College	93.08	34.47	39.90	1.77
84	Georgia St	92.75	38.07	39.94	-3.90
85	Marshall	92.53	36.87	30.63	6.46
86	CS Sacramento	92.33	33.48	33.53	7.59
87	Ga Southern	91.80	36.20	30.56	5.61
88	West Virginia	91.46	31.85	31.77	9.35
89	Nevada	91.28	42.91	25.27	0.66



90	South Florida	91.22	33.73	29.83	8.17
91	Toledo	90.74	36.18	31.62	1.90
92	WKU	90.08	32.35	27.49	9.51
93	Buffalo	89.92	31.35	31.34	6.58
94	Houston	89.88	26.85	34.01	9.83
95	Maryland	88.95	28.02	37.28	2.66
96	C Michigan	88.38	30.14	33.51	2.20
97	Dartmouth	87.87	31.03	26.67	6.55
98	Kansas	87.37	25.65	34.95	4.21
99	ULM	87.36	30.96	35.81	-3.75
100	San Jose St	86.43	27.63	36.39	-2.21
101	NC State	86.01	27.37	27.60	5.86
102	Ball St	85.74	23.57	35.26	2.61
103	Northern Iowa	85.40	28.48	23.64	6.81
104	Ohio	85.27	24.29	33.94	1.78
105	Northwestern	85.18	19.61	26.67	15.07
106	S Dakota St	84.71	24.71	30.01	3.74
107	Syracuse	84.43	24.11	31.00	2.87
108	Army	84.30	20.26	29.13	9.55
109	E Michigan	84.23	26.76	30.73	-0.89
110	Georgia Tech	84.05	22.86	29.30	5.26
111	Liberty	83.66	24.73	30.23	0.88
112	Cent Arkansas	83.45	31.43	23.90	-2.27
113	Vanderbilt	83.38	23.49	27.63	4.42
114	UAB	83.18	25.11	27.41	1.99
115	Colorado St	82.97	23.02	34.06	-2.41
116	North Texas	82.84	22.07	36.02	-3.40
117	Texas St	82.79	25.84	21.28	6.17
118	Montana St	82.47	23.44	27.46	2.39
119	Kent	82.40	22.13	31.49	-0.07
120	Coastal Car	82.17	22.17	28.24	2.55
121	Troy	82.10	20.02	37.70	-4.21
122	SE Louisiana	81.91	21.98	31.57	-1.16
123	East Carolina	81.67	20.76	31.25	0.17
124	Arkansas	81.43	18.50	32.22	1.62
125	MTSU	81.36	19.69	29.84	2.24
126	Charlotte	81.23	23.39	32.04	-5.23
127	Towson	80.74	21.39	27.78	0.48
128	Florida Intl	80.57	21.57	25.99	1.61
129	UC Davis	80.29	21.02	31.32	-3.68
130	Furman	80.18	18.59	27.08	3.52
131	Villanova	80.15	21.83	31.27	-5.07
132	N Illinois	79.66	17.74	28.58	1.84



133	E Washington	79.59	16.86	35.97	-4.54
134	Illinois St	79.36	22.16	18.63	5.15
135	SE Missouri St	79.07	24.36	23.10	-2.97
136	North Dakota	78.96	22.70	24.37	-2.30
137	Yale	78.82	23.73	28.08	-7.74
138	S Illinois	78.54	19.82	25.06	-0.20
139	TN Martin	78.42	20.09	23.28	0.91
140	Rutgers	77.96	20.98	21.30	0.55
141	Princeton	77.91	18.11	25.44	0.12
142	McNeese St	77.78	21.35	22.16	-1.24
143	Sam Houston St	77.53	17.95	21.23	3.60
144	Monmouth NJ	77.14	21.53	26.31	-7.22
145	Nicholls St	77.13	20.17	25.05	-4.18
146	Austin Peay	76.88	18.23	27.48	-4.66
147	UNLV	76.57	15.18	28.96	-2.84
148	Florida A&M	75.67	26.70	20.59	-12.09
149	Wofford	75.60	14.79	26.07	-1.87
150	UT San Antonio	75.57	18.34	22.90	-3.50
151	San Diego	75.22	16.13	28.06	-6.58
152	New Mexico	74.97	15.06	25.96	-3.69
153	Bowling Green	74.90	18.69	20.98	-3.73
154	Kennesaw	74.74	15.81	27.94	-7.23
155	Maine	74.44	14.05	27.84	-5.54
156	Idaho	74.43	14.34	24.24	-2.36
157	SUNY Albany	74.24	13.23	26.58	-3.68
158	Connecticut	73.68	15.28	23.85	-5.09
159	Rice	73.41	7.71	21.56	6.61
160	New Hampshire	73.25	15.25	15.55	2.17
161	Central Conn	72.67	14.85	22.62	-5.82
162	NC A&T	71.47	12.74	20.51	-3.90
163	South Dakota	71.42	7.44	30.54	-7.00
164	Youngstown St	71.00	10.00	26.04	-3.36
165	Elon	70.93	8.99	22.84	-2.57
166	Alcorn St	70.87	9.59	22.57	-3.24
167	William & Mary	70.62	7.83	24.23	-3.19
168	Abilene Chr	70.41	10.13	21.31	-3.86
169	Citadel	70.39	10.16	23.17	-5.80
170	Northern Arizona	70.32	9.53	34.45	-16.43
171	Portland St	70.25	7.96	23.35	-3.39
172	Jacksonville St	69.86	10.51	20.30	-4.73
173	Richmond	69.71	9.76	18.32	-2.13
174	South Alabama	69.66	6.63	17.71	2.53
175	Stony Brook	69.28	9.47	21.90	-6.39



176	S Carolina St	69.19	12.43	21.19	-9.85
177	Tennessee Tech	68.44	13.11	25.63	-17.08
178	Cal Poly	68.38	6.59	22.64	-5.54
179	Chattanooga	68.36	7.96	22.07	-6.85
180	Old Dominion	67.88	3.54	18.17	1.74
181	Grambling	67.74	6.19	17.82	-1.78
182	New Mexico St	67.32	4.53	23.20	-6.01
183	Harvard	67.20	2.26	20.47	-0.55
184	Delaware	67.12	6.29	20.45	-6.09
185	Idaho St	66.43	4.04	24.25	-8.61
186	Holy Cross	66.42	7.86	14.40	-3.91
187	Southern Univ	66.36	6.55	17.93	-5.84
188	E Kentucky	66.16	3.00	21.52	-5.17
189	Incarnate Word	65.95	6.74	20.58	-9.76
190	UTEP	65.32	2.98	18.83	-4.57
191	Northwestern LA	65.30	4.94	24.11	-12.53
192	Robert Morris	64.16	7.50	13.93	-8.58
193	Columbia	63.96	2.47	15.78	-4.24
194	Campbell	62.87	4.36	17.77	-11.47
195	Duquesne	62.81	6.17	12.69	-8.98
196	SF Austin	62.77	1.27	22.31	-12.16
197	Indiana St	62.75	-0.93	12.26	0.77
198	Murray St	62.65	1.17	15.04	-5.05
199	Penn	62.21	2.79	19.04	-12.30
200	Dayton	62.03	4.45	28.11	-24.02
201	Southern Utah	61.95	-0.67	22.85	-12.15
202	Samford	61.72	-0.86	27.32	-16.93
203	N Colorado	61.54	-0.27	15.11	-5.98
204	Sacred Heart	61.26	1.40	16.95	-10.75
205	Bethune-Cookman	61.18	4.93	11.17	-9.86
206	Lamar	61.17	2.65	14.77	-10.45
207	Houston Bap	61.10	-2.43	28.23	-17.32
208	Drake	61.02	4.00	12.13	-9.97
209	Prairie View	60.79	-5.03	26.15	-12.53
210	Alabama St	59.31	-1.32	11.31	-6.33
211	Mercer	59.06	-2.83	18.41	-12.04
212	Missouri St	58.55	-3.71	12.97	-6.71
213	VMI	58.45	-3.18	24.13	-18.83
214	Charleston So	58.34	-0.53	13.13	-11.65
215	Davidson	57.91	-3.01	16.57	-12.86
216	Georgetown	57.77	-6.07	12.54	-5.09
217	Norfolk St	57.35	-4.02	19.64	-15.97
218	Lehigh	56.76	-3.72	7.47	-5.69



219	St Francis PA	56.43	-6.93	14.23	-8.96
220	Rhode Island	56.24	-9.84	20.13	-11.49
221	Colgate	56.11	-4.88	10.89	-9.18
222	ETSU	55.97	-11.90	10.80	-0.07
223	Ark Pine Bluff	55.97	-8.75	16.15	-9.63
224	Lafayette	55.93	-6.73	12.82	-9.10
225	Akron	55.22	-7.57	8.61	-5.53
226	Fordham	54.85	-8.21	18.03	-15.03
227	Alabama A&M	54.58	-5.33	18.88	-20.38
228	Bucknell	54.04	-5.78	12.47	-14.73
229	Massachusetts	53.61	-3.79	21.03	-27.00
230	North Alabama	53.60	-8.57	14.86	-14.49
231	W Illinois	53.40	-11.43	16.12	-12.44
232	Jackson St	52.93	-8.30	17.63	-19.31
233	Hampton	52.53	-9.79	16.31	-17.00
234	E Illinois	52.28	-13.55	12.16	-8.45
235	Cornell	52.14	-14.44	8.88	-4.34
236	Gardner Webb	51.70	-9.34	14.12	-17.50
237	Wagner	51.37	-13.76	8.34	-6.63
238	W Carolina	50.86	-10.93	14.16	-17.51
239	Morgan St	50.81	-8.61	8.12	-14.69
240	NC Central	50.21	-9.50	4.61	-11.47
241	Tennessee St	50.10	-15.97	18.83	-17.36
242	Stetson	48.45	-9.74	3.97	-14.92
243	Marist	48.13	-10.01	7.85	-19.24
244	Morehead St	46.24	-12.53	10.49	-23.26
245	Brown	44.98	-21.45	21.95	-25.97
246	Bryant	42.92	-22.10	4.84	-13.16
247	Merrimack	42.35	-22.29	8.64	-18.10
248	Valparaiso	41.96	-20.36	3.67	-16.69
249	MS Valley St	39.80	-26.08	3.15	-13.95
250	Delaware St	39.28	-23.21	2.45	-18.37
251	LIU Post	38.54	-28.52	2.61	-13.30
252	Butler	38.37	-22.45	4.91	-24.12
253	TX Southern	38.24	-27.57	14.91	-27.61
254	Jacksonville	38.19	-26.22	5.86	-20.50
255	Howard	37.52	-21.61	8.43	-30.89
256	Presbyterian	36.52	-27.44	1.33	-18.53
257	VA-Lynchburg	22.02	-39.94	-3.88	-32.87

