

RATINGS 10-26-13

Welcome back to By the Numbers. This is a rating system that uses only wins, losses, points for, points against and schedule to rank college football teams. The “wins” column shows ratings using only wins and losses (no points, as required of BCS computer systems). Offense/defense breaks the points-only ratings (no wins/losses) into components. A more thorough description of the system can be found at www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html.

The battle for the national championship is starting to gain focus. Alabama is a clear #1. You may be wondering why I think things are clearing up when for “no good reason” Oregon jumped Florida State to be #2 in this week’s BCS rankings. If, as expected, Florida State beats Miami handily this week, you can expect Florida State to hop back over Oregon in next week’s BCS. Madness! However, it only takes a little quantitative reasoning to understand it: Oregon and Florida State are very close, and strength of schedule will be enough to tip the balance. Last week the Ducks quacked UCLA and FSU chopped NC State; advantage, Oregon. This week is FSU – Miami, while Oregon prepares for its big game on Thursday, 11/7, against Stanford. Advantage, Noles – if they win.

You may also wonder about Alabama being a “clear #1” when my ratings have them third. That’s due to strength of schedule, but the gap has narrowed considerably and the Tide has big games left against LSU (11/9, after a week off) and Auburn. If I were a part of the BCS system, the ratings I would submit would be the win ratings (column 2 below) in which Alabama is #2. To be fair, in the win ratings Alabama, Oregon and Stanford are in a near dead heat for second. If Florida State and Oregon win out, it will be a very dramatic final BCS ranking.

I wanted to pass on some hard-hitting journalism, reprinted in the *Roanoke Times* from a writer from the *Richmond Times-Disgrace*, titled “BCS a lousy way to find a champion.” The author argues that the championship should be determined by a playoff system and not a “convoluted rating system.” And if you’re not already sympathetic to that idea, he gives us the case of Virginia Tech, which at #14 would have had a hard time climbing to #2 even if they had run the table. The conclusion is “Virginia Tech might not be good enough to beat Alabama, Oregon, Ohio State, Missouri, Stanford or Auburn, but that should be decided on the field, not by a computer program.” So, bypassing the obvious omission of Duke from the (really long) list of teams that Tech can’t beat, what’s wrong with this? How do seven teams decide it on the field? BCS Smackdown! All seven teams in the ring at the same time! Plus I don’t see how 6 computer ratings averaging out to one-third of the final ranking amounts to a computer deciding anything, other than an objective breaking of the tie between Oregon and FSU.

However, this did inspire me to make public my own crusade. With all the recent publicity about concussions, I want to come out boldly advocating headgear. And I even favor face guards for the helmets, even if it means that (in the words of the late great Art Donovan to Johnny Carson) “you can’t even get your fingers in there anymore.” It’s dangerous being on the cutting edge of issues like this, but I feel like it’s a responsibility to keep up with the times.

Here's a reminder of where the score predictions come from. Virginia Tech has an offensive rating of 30.46 and a defensive rating - 2nd in the nation - of 25.59. (This means that if the offense played four quarters against the defense, they'd score just under 5 points.) BC's ratings are 35.95 and 10.91. So, predict Tech to score $30.46 - 10.91 = 19.55$ points and BC to score $35.95 - 25.59 = 10.36$. Using the overall ratings and 4 points for home field, Tech is predicted to win by 10, so a score of 20-10 works well.

The biggest game of the week is Florida State and Miami. Based on appearances the last couple of weeks, and based on the ratings, the game won't be close. But if somebody were to give me Miami and 22 points, I would take it. Even great teams usually struggle in one game, and Boston College is the only team to play with FSU for a half. Other good games are the battles of the M's (Michigan-Michigan State), the N's (Nebraska-Northwestern) and the NC's (UNC-NC State). The Georgia-Florida cocktail party is always fun to watch.

This week's predictions are:

Florida State 49, Miami 27
Clemson 45, Virginia 16
Virginia Tech 20, Boston College 10
Michigan State 31, Michigan 27
Georgia 27, Florida 22
North Carolina 28, NC State 26
Nebraska 35, Northwestern 28
Wisconsin 21, Iowa 20
Texas Tech 38, Oklahoma State 33

Last week's trivia answers: Florida QB Steve Spurrier.

Saturday's Florida State-Miami game marks the 50th anniversary of the first big win in the series, and one of the first *Sports Illustrated* jinxes. To that point, Miami had won 8 out of 9 (none due to a "wide right"), and Miami was highly touted. Their All-American QB was featured on the cover of SI with the caption "The Best Passer." (Wow! The overblown hyperbole of 1963 media!) The game was the season opener and Florida State upset the Canes 24-0, led by their QB Steve "Pass" Tensi and an underrated, skinny, sticky-handed receiver who is now the namesake of an important college football award. Name the Miami quarterback and the Florida State receiver.

And here are this week's ratings:

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Florida St	120.53	120.45	60.84	21.64
2	Oregon	118.18	116.61	63.16	19.08
3	Alabama	115.84	116.66	49.38	26.94
4	Baylor	114.89	108.44	71.09	14.94
5	Stanford	111.83	116.23	42.95	23.97
6	Missouri	110.54	115.47	48.81	16.00
7	Ohio State	110.30	112.56	56.04	12.45
8	Clemson	108.17	113.16	47.32	14.98
9	Arizona St	107.70	106.29	61.08	10.13
10	Texas A&M	106.15	108.75	57.95	5.77
11	Auburn	105.98	109.74	43.86	17.98
12	South Carolina	103.43	107.21	41.46	17.72
13	Miami FL	103.36	107.35	47.24	11.57
14	Oklahoma	103.35	109.57	40.95	14.56
15	Brigham Young	102.35	102.49	43.22	20.20
16	LSU	101.81	102.29	50.41	11.96
17	Georgia	101.54	104.92	48.46	9.37
18	UCLA	99.42	98.74	43.31	18.32
19	Arizona	99.39	99.25	45.80	14.99
20	Michigan	99.29	103.69	48.59	5.41
21	Michigan St	99.25	102.84	33.93	21.24
22	Virginia Tech	99.05	101.90	30.46	25.59
23	Louisville	98.93	97.40	42.97	19.38
24	Texas Tech	98.56	101.85	43.00	11.90
25	Washington	98.45	95.85	43.07	20.36
26	Mississippi	98.23	100.58	41.14	14.80
27	Notre Dame	98.01	102.22	37.47	15.49
28	Oregon St	98.00	99.74	47.78	8.82
29	Oklahoma St	97.51	96.53	47.67	12.43
30	Central Florida	97.47	99.00	46.48	9.88
31	Florida	97.03	98.52	30.82	25.15
32	Fresno St	96.91	104.42	47.33	-0.35
33	Texas	96.81	98.38	43.17	12.45
34	Southern Cal	96.78	96.09	36.06	22.85
35	Wisconsin	96.70	91.98	44.40	20.34
36	Northern Illinois	95.90	104.39	43.26	1.25
37	Houston	95.86	96.69	48.83	6.89
38	Georgia Tech	95.68	92.18	46.19	15.73
39	Utah	93.92	91.53	44.85	13.60
40	Eastern Illinois	93.28	97.66	46.02	1.85
41	Duke	93.26	95.08	43.61	7.98
42	North Dakota St	93.05	95.82	36.35	13.62
43	Iowa	92.31	93.08	34.29	17.87
44	Minnesota	90.69	95.32	33.90	10.91

45	Washington St	90.30	91.07	42.02	8.06
46	Ball St	90.24	94.34	40.51	4.64
47	Tennessee	90.07	91.72	39.48	9.08
48	Toledo	89.47	93.82	38.71	5.27
49	East Carolina	89.35	89.47	42.20	7.88
50	Mississippi St	89.20	88.45	36.72	14.48
51	Kansas St	88.94	83.10	41.04	17.37
52	Pittsburgh	88.35	88.76	37.77	10.85
53	Nebraska	87.89	86.34	42.63	8.41
54	Boise St	87.52	85.05	41.59	10.41
55	Penn State	87.42	89.66	33.70	11.28
56	Louisiana-Lafayette	86.29	87.54	40.90	4.35
57	Maryland	85.67	87.30	35.08	8.99
58	Indiana	85.44	82.68	51.91	-1.63
59	Northwestern	85.28	84.79	36.07	10.71
60	Vanderbilt	85.22	86.20	38.11	6.45
61	TCU	85.06	82.82	30.65	18.47
62	Boston College	85.00	84.26	35.95	10.91
63	Rice	84.29	86.03	32.05	10.44
64	Buffalo	84.24	85.62	34.17	8.79
65	Tulane	84.10	90.15	30.46	5.49
66	North Texas	83.93	84.39	33.01	11.00
67	North Carolina	83.42	79.38	38.04	12.04
68	Utah St	83.02	74.66	41.31	14.71
69	Navy	82.72	83.33	30.14	12.40
70	Bowling Green	82.19	80.65	32.40	12.75
71	Ohio U.	81.50	82.86	35.79	4.38
72	Colorado	81.20	83.31	33.55	5.19
73	Rutgers	81.04	83.66	33.82	4.01
74	McNeese St	80.76	82.93	38.03	0.19
75	West Virginia	80.56	79.25	33.31	9.81
76	Eastern Washington	80.07	83.94	36.31	-1.29
77	Maine	80.00	85.06	33.32	-0.14
78	Coastal Carolina	79.79	83.76	42.76	-8.20
79	Bethune-Cookman	79.65	89.28	20.09	6.00
80	Tennessee St	79.38	86.44	24.51	5.10
81	Arkansas	79.36	81.39	29.31	7.68
82	San José St	79.17	79.54	35.60	3.62
83	Wake Forest	79.13	79.29	26.73	12.77
84	Marshall	78.78	73.30	44.15	3.27
85	Youngstown St	78.15	83.05	33.20	-1.68
86	UNLV	77.88	82.58	33.09	-1.57
87	Syracuse	77.87	78.24	33.97	3.92
88	Illinois	77.80	74.31	42.46	1.03
89	North Carolina St	76.65	75.02	31.74	7.85

90	Towson	76.22	76.71	38.52	-2.51
91	Sam Houston St	75.94	77.80	31.56	2.14
92	Fordham	75.90	80.99	35.88	-6.97
93	San Diego St	75.76	76.95	27.11	7.41
94	Middle Tennessee St	75.64	75.32	34.77	1.85
95	SMU	75.17	75.63	41.79	-6.82
96	Cincinnati	75.02	70.75	34.80	6.97
97	Virginia	74.75	70.11	30.93	11.11
98	SE Louisiana St	74.45	74.80	34.37	0.02
99	Villanova	74.09	72.40	30.34	6.70
100	Western Kentucky	73.87	72.35	31.17	5.39
101	Arkansas St	73.30	72.25	31.51	3.76
102	Troy	72.86	74.81	32.72	-2.32
103	Southern Illinois	72.83	71.63	29.70	5.31
104	Texas St-San Marcos	72.66	75.32	21.93	7.23
105	Colorado St	72.64	68.22	37.90	1.65
106	Northern Arizona	72.21	77.40	23.90	1.09
107	South Alabama	72.20	70.98	35.79	-1.40
108	Kansas	72.01	71.54	28.40	4.70
109	Louisiana-Monroe	71.48	74.43	24.28	3.25
110	Montana	71.43	68.57	34.87	1.15
111	Kentucky	71.02	63.62	36.10	6.17
112	Samford	71.01	71.73	32.75	-2.44
113	Memphis	70.85	63.00	24.09	18.67
114	California	70.43	67.50	34.45	0.65
115	Iowa St	70.24	64.49	36.46	2.57
116	Jacksonville St	70.19	75.35	24.13	-1.20
117	William & Mary	70.14	70.17	21.42	9.00
118	Florida Atlantic	69.94	66.20	26.66	9.12
119	Nevada	69.43	67.36	34.51	-1.73
120	South Carolina St	69.39	71.80	22.06	4.09
121	Texas-San Antonio	69.30	65.98	29.42	5.08
122	Montana St	68.71	68.15	30.75	-0.93
123	Tennessee-Martin	68.56	75.16	23.07	-3.94
124	South Florida	68.21	67.99	24.39	4.44
125	South Dakota St	68.12	67.55	30.45	-1.20
126	Murray St	68.09	74.15	29.06	-9.61
127	Old Dominion	68.00	66.25	39.49	-8.64
128	Eastern Kentucky	67.99	71.46	22.56	0.61
129	Central Michigan	67.78	71.70	20.83	1.45
130	Princeton	67.65	69.65	33.37	-8.40
131	Harvard	67.61	69.24	30.57	-5.09
132	Northern Iowa	66.47	61.05	30.57	4.09
133	New Hampshire	65.88	64.48	32.73	-4.58
134	Wyoming	65.77	60.62	35.54	-1.97

135	Chattanooga	65.51	65.08	23.80	2.54
136	Akron	65.43	63.80	24.66	3.37
137	Army	65.28	63.06	29.06	-0.31
138	Tulsa	65.10	62.07	26.23	3.50
139	Kent St	64.54	62.46	24.62	3.16
140	Central Arkansas	64.22	65.47	26.07	-3.53
141	Delaware	62.93	69.25	27.18	-13.43
142	Jackson St	62.79	69.79	18.12	-5.50
143	Illinois St	62.58	63.86	28.11	-7.30
144	Wofford	62.37	62.64	17.94	4.13
145	Purdue	62.15	60.81	21.86	2.36
146	Temple	61.80	55.17	26.00	5.65
147	Missouri St	61.65	57.66	26.01	1.60
148	Southern Utah	61.28	64.02	13.84	3.49
149	Hawai'i	59.72	51.42	28.33	3.61
150	Cal Poly SLO	59.40	54.69	21.23	5.11
151	Pennsylvania	58.94	61.72	19.40	-4.55
152	Alabama St	58.81	61.73	25.11	-10.60
153	Georgia Southern	58.80	54.25	31.13	-5.64
154	Sacramento St	58.52	56.31	20.40	1.35
155	Louisiana Tech	58.47	55.83	20.30	2.04
156	James Madison	58.36	56.96	21.73	-1.33
157	Alabama-Birmingham	58.34	56.39	31.31	-10.12
158	South Dakota	58.28	58.25	15.85	2.46
159	Stony Brook	58.26	55.77	16.35	5.56
160	Brown	57.82	57.88	22.28	-4.56
161	New Mexico	57.76	50.23	33.49	-4.69
162	Lehigh	57.29	64.17	20.04	-12.91
163	Charleston Southern	57.05	61.63	14.57	-4.31
164	Liberty	56.93	49.61	23.92	3.74
165	Nicholls St	56.85	62.60	20.81	-12.48
166	Idaho	56.67	58.61	21.40	-7.65
167	Connecticut	56.24	50.44	22.42	2.29
168	Western Michigan	55.56	54.59	22.32	-5.42
169	Western Illinois	55.38	52.97	19.25	-0.43
170	SE Missouri St	55.35	55.98	19.14	-4.82
171	Massachusetts	54.66	49.74	18.09	3.68
172	Air Force	53.73	47.34	28.45	-5.47
173	Eastern Michigan	53.45	54.99	22.36	-11.33
174	Sacred Heart	53.23	54.23	20.20	-8.60
175	Alcorn St	52.60	57.49	18.19	-12.95
176	Yale	52.52	49.55	19.94	-3.24
177	Tennessee Tech	51.80	53.39	17.80	-8.53
178	North Carolina A&T	51.28	51.77	15.05	-4.70
179	Portland St	51.15	44.62	25.75	-5.23

180	Gardner-Webb	51.13	52.07	12.15	-2.61
181	Florida Int'l	50.37	51.47	14.87	-6.35
182	Furman	50.36	46.74	17.04	-1.59
183	Northwestern St	50.06	49.79	19.99	-9.79
184	Stephen F. Austin	49.83	52.13	30.72	-24.54
185	Hampton	49.65	51.45	16.94	-10.20
186	Georgia St	49.41	45.08	21.23	-5.71
187	Dayton	49.37	53.84	12.88	-10.37
188	Richmond	49.03	40.45	20.98	0.37
189	San Diego	49.01	47.70	23.82	-13.19
190	Prairie View A&M	48.69	49.03	26.79	-18.91
191	Delaware St	48.66	54.66	6.56	-7.03
192	North Carolina Central	48.61	50.58	11.56	-6.14
193	Bryant	48.25	48.53	19.31	-11.77
194	UC-Davis	48.05	44.36	13.42	-0.26
195	Southern Miss	46.90	45.06	19.32	-10.07
196	Lafayette	46.82	42.45	18.73	-5.82
197	Monmouth NJ	46.50	43.92	18.43	-8.51
198	Dartmouth	46.46	41.46	20.87	-7.41
199	Southern U.	46.16	50.51	15.62	-16.22
200	Western Carolina	46.14	44.37	21.42	-13.05
201	UTEP	46.09	37.42	28.32	-9.84
202	New Mexico St	45.89	43.58	22.71	-13.81
203	The Citadel	45.34	37.67	23.59	-7.37
204	Lamar	45.31	41.61	16.44	-6.10
205	St Francis PA	44.83	42.38	13.69	-5.66
206	Rhode Island	44.69	44.07	10.25	-5.07
207	Duquesne	44.30	48.14	12.88	-14.66
208	Appalachian St	43.68	36.40	16.65	-2.70
209	Weber St	43.33	45.04	14.40	-14.05
210	Austin Peay	42.88	46.54	6.42	-9.39
211	Miami OH	42.85	34.76	14.66	-0.39
212	Norfolk St	42.40	41.12	6.49	-2.68
213	UNC-Charlotte	42.26	41.96	19.92	-17.71
214	North Dakota	41.87	36.57	17.80	-8.63
215	Indiana St	41.86	37.12	21.04	-12.71
216	Holy Cross	41.59	35.89	18.66	-9.18
217	Howard	40.74	40.30	14.04	-13.19
218	Florida A&M	40.24	38.89	8.42	-6.74
219	Bucknell	40.21	38.21	9.62	-7.02
220	Elon	40.20	34.87	17.39	-9.89
221	Idaho St	39.92	33.59	20.37	-11.69
222	Marist	38.89	37.40	11.78	-11.28
223	Robert Morris PA	38.24	38.94	6.94	-10.32
224	Colgate	37.64	32.57	16.59	-12.11

225	Butler	36.72	37.06	9.53	-13.96
226	Morgan St	35.94	32.36	15.72	-15.18
227	Cornell	33.98	25.90	21.58	-16.43
228	Presbyterian	33.84	29.75	17.51	-18.40
229	Wagner	33.77	36.74	4.94	-16.28
230	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	33.52	30.58	16.53	-19.43
231	Mercer	33.05	37.69	6.69	-21.20
232	Central Conn St	32.63	31.92	17.70	-24.80
233	Texas Southern	32.07	31.78	4.13	-12.42
234	Albany NY	31.59	27.73	9.81	-13.33
235	Jacksonville FL	31.26	29.49	18.82	-25.77
236	Alabama A&M	30.57	28.60	0.92	-8.29
237	Northern Colorado	30.07	19.33	15.84	-10.81
238	Savannah St	28.87	29.87	12.13	-25.60
239	Drake	28.41	28.43	0.09	-12.62
240	Houston Baptist	26.34	43.80	2.14	-42.44
241	Mississippi Valley St	26.03	22.13	4.85	-14.06
242	Columbia	25.59	26.32	-0.63	-15.83
243	VMI	25.45	20.11	13.38	-21.05
244	Morehead St	25.24	29.99	9.79	-32.52
245	Georgetown DC	25.16	21.86	7.58	-18.56
246	Grambling St	18.45	15.24	1.43	-19.45
247	Stetson	10.00	10.00	-3.45	-31.45
248	Valparaiso	7.01	5.81	0.01	-32.77
249	Campbell	6.60	0.80	5.25	-31.67
250	Davidson	0.32	-0.50	-8.35	-31.84

