

RATINGS 10-18-14

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. A more thorough description of the system can be found at www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html. While the honeymoon is still on for the 4-team playoff system, I'm starting to hear some rumblings about how the selection committee will work. By the way, last week's trivia question (on the committee, might pick his alma mater) was about Archie Manning (doesn't he look like Peyton in that picture? His helmet has a 100 on it, which dates it to 1969, the 100th anniversary of college football.), who just resigned from the committee. So we're down to 12 members, with the chance now for tie votes. I'm hoping for Wendell Willkie as a compromise candidate on the 35th ballot.

The polls have 4 of the top 5 from the SEC West. Notice that my ratings have them 1-4, followed by a big gap to #5. Granted, we have several games left for some or most of those teams to get multiple losses and take themselves out of contention. But what if all of the games (Auburn at Ole Miss on 11/1, Miss State at Alabama on 11/15, and both Auburn at Alabama and Miss State at Ole Miss on 11/29) are terrific and close? How many teams can we take from the same division?

It is hard to predict upsets. I know, that's a ridiculous statement: if I can predict an upset then it's not really an upset. This has been a year of upsets; last week was no exception with Kansas State winning at Oklahoma (true, it took a surprising missed OU field goal, and as usual we have all been misunderestimating K-State) and West Virginia burning Baylor (would you say that the celebration was riotous?). I suspect there will be major surprises this week as well, but where will they come from? Ole Miss at LSU could be a sucker game if the Rebels are looking ahead to Auburn. Mississippi State and Kentucky is a rivalry game according to the SEC, but the Cats will have to play way better than last week if they are to have a chance against the Dogs. That is one of many double-digit point spreads, and it's hard to see that big of an upset. But, as the saying goes, prediction is difficult, especially about the future. (I have been talking about academic integrity with my students this week, so I should provide a citation for that. The quote seems to have originated with either Yogi Berra or the Danish Parliament.)

The two Virginia teams return home for must win games. The Hokies have a tradition of strong Thursday night performances at home, but most of them date to an era when the phrase Beamer Ball had meaning. The Tech defense is one of two ACC teams ranked in the top ten this week – it's hard to believe that I get to type this, but Clemson is the other. The Virginia defense certainly passes the eye test as a strong unit, but the rating is based on points allowed and the Hoos have found numerous ways to let the opponents score. Still, a

predicted score this week of 45-35 was surprising. The lesson is that the North Carolina defense is really bad and the Heels' offense is very good.

The Big 10 has fallen even further this year. Maryland is doing well. There's no need to say anything else, but it is worth noting that Ohio State versus Penn State and Michigan versus Michigan State are not considered to be interesting games. Vegas has Michigan State by 17, my ratings have the Spartans by 30 (about Salem High's average this year).

Now for some predictions. By the way, how did you like last week's pick of Florida State over Notre Dame by 32-28? (Better than I liked the Tech 24, Pitt 17 prediction, I assume.) The basic prediction is to take the difference in the overall ratings, after adding 4 points to the home team. This week, Virginia Tech is 87.2 and Miami is 85.2. The game is in Blacksburg so we pick the Hokies to win by $87.2 - 85.2 + 4 = 6$ points. We can also predict the score. Take the Hokie offensive rating of 32.3 and subtract Miami's defensive rating of 9.9 and we predict Tech to score 23 points. Miami's offensive rating of 39.5 minus Tech's defensive rating of 21.0 gives Miami 18 points. One problem: a score of 23-18 gives Tech a 5-point win, instead of our predicted 6-point victory. Take away 1 from Miami to make it a 23-17 Hokie win.

This week's predictions are:

Virginia Tech 23, Miami 17

Virginia 45, North Carolina 35

Oklahoma State 35, West Virginia 34

Mississippi State 45, Kentucky 20

Ole Miss 24, LSU 19

Ohio State 35, Penn State 24

Utah 31, Southern Cal 26

The background celebrates the glory days of Maroon football, in particular the one and only conference championship of this school (not Roanoke College!) whose Maroon football team went unbeaten in 1940 and won its conference in 1941.

And here are the ratings:

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Mississippi	118.44	65.41	47.95	27.84
2	Auburn	117.95	63.16	53.59	24.71
3	Mississippi St	117.86	65.85	54.82	18.79
4	Alabama	114.84	59.42	48.39	28.39
5	Florida St	109.27	61.02	47.64	12.56
6	Georgia	108.16	52.64	54.59	16.78
7	TCU	106.68	51.38	53.19	16.58
8	Oregon	106.14	53.72	50.34	14.19
9	Notre Dame	104.04	53.12	42.77	17.51
10	Michigan St	103.85	50.22	51.86	12.78
11	LSU	103.63	48.70	45.01	21.59
12	Oklahoma	103.54	47.29	51.01	17.72
13	Kansas St	103.32	50.99	44.06	17.98
14	Baylor	101.80	46.64	53.66	11.80
15	Clemson	101.33	48.22	42.30	19.36
16	UCLA	101.32	49.77	46.41	12.63
17	Nebraska	100.31	46.09	47.05	15.62
18	Arizona	100.21	50.83	43.54	10.96
19	Missouri	99.25	47.81	37.93	19.21
20	Ohio State	98.89	41.37	54.60	12.38
21	Texas A&M	98.09	44.32	47.99	12.09
22	West Virginia	97.97	45.39	46.61	11.38
23	Utah	97.17	44.93	41.27	15.48
24	Minnesota	96.75	47.82	36.97	13.92
25	Southern Cal	96.22	43.28	44.08	13.04
26	Maryland	93.70	41.85	42.74	10.49
27	Oklahoma St	93.54	43.27	40.74	9.69
28	Louisville	92.40	38.20	38.35	17.69
29	Florida	92.40	38.26	44.20	11.75
30	Arizona St	92.22	41.06	46.44	4.39
31	Tennessee	91.82	35.12	39.11	20.60
32	Marshall	91.72	36.59	48.49	8.54
33	North Dakota St	90.49	41.33	30.60	15.44
34	South Carolina	90.22	38.09	45.09	5.70
35	Boise St	90.17	41.75	39.91	4.66
36	Arkansas	90.11	31.97	46.22	14.48
37	Colorado St	89.95	41.61	33.03	11.22
38	Duke	89.73	37.49	37.58	12.97
39	East Carolina	89.19	37.63	42.66	6.31
40	Kentucky	88.70	37.45	38.13	9.90
41	Wisconsin	88.51	32.19	41.86	14.49
42	Washington	87.84	36.23	36.13	11.79

43	Virginia Tech	87.17	32.03	32.25	21.00
44	Georgia Tech	87.09	35.63	41.16	5.90
45	Iowa	86.70	34.81	32.27	15.17
46	Central Florida	86.59	36.29	33.32	11.39
47	Virginia	86.24	31.51	37.23	14.56
48	Memphis	85.62	28.75	40.59	14.24
49	Stanford	85.27	29.78	26.21	26.03
50	Miami FL	85.18	31.35	39.52	9.88
51	Louisiana Tech	84.74	31.39	39.24	9.01
52	Boston College	84.57	30.01	33.88	16.22
53	Brigham Young	84.33	30.11	44.22	5.12
54	Nevada	84.00	33.38	34.51	8.58
55	Illinois St	83.99	32.53	36.92	7.55
56	Arkansas St	83.92	31.16	33.32	13.26
57	California	83.74	31.60	46.14	-0.74
58	Penn State	83.48	31.26	29.83	15.47
59	Syracuse	83.44	30.98	33.00	12.67
60	Pittsburgh	83.03	27.13	40.75	10.33
61	Utah St	82.98	31.14	33.18	11.07
62	North Carolina St	81.73	30.18	38.47	4.27
63	Texas	81.68	26.81	31.44	16.77
64	Northwestern	81.36	27.21	29.25	17.51
65	North Carolina	80.65	28.98	49.18	-7.13
66	Oregon St	79.61	28.96	33.88	5.60
67	Iowa St	79.12	25.81	39.85	3.65
68	San José St	78.82	30.08	28.91	6.72
69	Houston	78.43	23.60	31.49	13.96
70	Toledo	78.32	26.79	39.79	0.07
71	Rutgers	78.25	27.47	32.42	6.13
72	Indiana	77.99	26.21	38.43	1.57
73	Michigan	77.83	23.75	30.20	13.51
74	Purdue	77.73	24.50	37.36	4.85
75	Texas Tech	77.21	25.85	38.16	0.49
76	Middle Tennessee St	76.79	25.21	36.67	1.99
77	Northern Illinois	76.32	26.49	36.71	-1.35
78	Eastern Washington	76.26	29.81	40.22	-10.54
79	Coastal Carolina	75.20	29.23	31.55	-3.55
80	South Dakota St	75.04	26.41	29.03	3.27
81	Cincinnati	74.93	21.04	39.63	1.34
82	Georgia Southern	74.85	18.47	37.59	7.46
83	New Hampshire	74.70	25.34	29.52	3.72
84	Air Force	74.15	25.05	28.79	3.55
85	Rice	74.08	22.81	32.98	2.90

86	Villanova	74.01	21.78	36.42	1.01
87	Washington St	73.05	16.54	44.12	-0.35
88	Wyoming	72.64	24.91	24.71	4.09
89	Jacksonville St	72.36	25.05	27.64	0.23
90	South Alabama	72.35	20.15	23.85	12.16
91	Alabama-Birmingham	72.28	17.23	36.61	4.09
92	Indiana St	72.07	19.84	27.55	8.28
93	Temple	71.28	15.18	35.00	6.61
94	Illinois	71.24	18.72	34.68	0.91
95	Central Michigan	70.93	18.87	28.47	6.12
96	Louisiana-Lafayette	70.52	21.12	27.10	2.71
97	Southern Miss	70.46	21.54	25.68	3.27
98	Missouri St	70.41	19.87	28.05	3.57
99	Florida Atlantic	69.98	19.02	32.06	-0.11
100	Western Michigan	69.39	16.05	32.33	3.10
101	Northwestern St	69.04	21.90	28.11	-3.30
102	SE Louisiana	69.02	18.57	29.16	1.16
103	San Diego St	68.88	17.30	20.46	11.63
104	Akron	68.80	15.12	25.12	10.38
105	Fresno St	68.61	17.63	33.56	-2.72
106	Southern Illinois	68.56	16.41	29.43	3.33
107	UTEP	68.54	19.90	30.99	-4.10
108	South Florida	68.52	17.24	25.65	5.64
109	Louisiana-Monroe	68.51	19.96	23.69	3.03
110	Vanderbilt	68.44	17.42	25.77	5.00
111	Texas-San Antonio	68.40	13.61	27.97	9.04
112	Colorado	68.25	14.69	35.78	-0.93
113	Sam Houston St	67.68	18.47	29.60	-2.47
114	Kansas	66.85	15.34	23.00	7.27
115	Florida Int'l	66.84	11.63	26.83	9.58
116	Montana St	66.81	18.06	35.49	-9.85
117	Bowling Green	66.34	16.22	31.34	-3.81
118	Montana	65.57	17.63	23.32	-0.07
119	Youngstown St	65.44	14.13	23.97	4.79
120	Ohio U.	65.20	14.31	21.38	6.48
121	Navy	64.97	8.78	29.17	7.33
122	Western Kentucky	64.67	7.53	43.90	-6.08
123	Chattanooga	64.47	9.95	28.95	4.37
124	Idaho St	63.78	12.91	34.71	-8.08
125	Bethune-Cookman	63.51	15.91	21.37	-0.40
126	Wake Forest	63.32	12.03	19.33	7.62
127	Hawai'i	63.18	8.64	26.39	5.89
128	McNeese St	62.77	8.49	27.40	4.08

129	Richmond	62.58	10.81	30.56	-3.43
130	Northern Iowa	62.58	5.56	33.27	2.62
131	Western Carolina	61.60	10.84	28.61	-3.98
132	Old Dominion	61.51	11.34	29.72	-6.14
133	Tulane	61.37	9.06	23.50	3.54
134	Bryant	60.61	13.56	16.93	0.70
135	Presbyterian	60.20	16.92	10.04	0.97
136	Yale	60.00	10.00	31.55	22.03
137	Fordham	59.84	6.19	32.00	-4.01
138	Liberty	59.67	8.91	31.51	-8.49
139	Eastern Kentucky	59.60	10.05	23.40	-2.43
140	Western Illinois	59.20	5.03	27.02	1.31
141	Harvard	59.12	9.47	21.59	-0.87
142	Dartmouth	58.95	13.66	29.32	-16.00
143	Sacred Heart	58.36	11.31	17.99	-2.23
144	William & Mary	58.35	7.43	26.35	-4.16
145	Ball St	58.32	2.60	26.80	3.38
146	New Mexico	58.26	5.55	27.38	-2.28
147	Eastern Illinois	57.66	2.62	31.88	-3.39
148	North Texas	57.19	2.72	31.27	-4.12
149	UNLV	57.13	9.41	23.75	-7.89
150	Alcorn St	57.11	7.14	23.16	-3.58
151	Central Arkansas	56.95	4.12	29.81	-5.58
152	James Madison	56.82	6.92	24.86	-5.63
153	Bucknell	54.72	6.84	19.06	-4.96
154	Charleston Southern	54.62	5.43	18.69	-2.49
155	Texas St-San Marcos	54.55	0.40	27.09	-2.68
156	Samford	54.27	-0.69	27.27	-1.75
157	Buffalo	53.90	1.23	30.60	-9.20
158	Appalachian St	53.75	-2.34	34.58	-7.58
159	Massachusetts	53.62	-2.28	33.53	-6.95
160	Stephen F. Austin	53.59	3.92	29.27	-13.12
161	Wofford	53.50	2.01	19.71	-0.60
162	Tulsa	53.37	-0.03	30.42	-8.24
163	Monmouth NJ	52.50	2.47	24.79	-8.93
164	North Carolina A&T	52.04	3.08	16.18	-2.50
165	Connecticut	51.95	-1.97	17.69	4.19
166	The Citadel	51.93	-0.68	22.30	-2.63
167	Lamar	51.81	7.02	24.43	-17.90
168	South Carolina St	51.70	6.50	13.43	-6.31
169	SMU	51.38	3.95	13.83	-3.27
170	Delaware	51.32	4.79	14.72	-5.69
171	Duquesne	51.23	0.19	20.77	-4.31

172	Army	51.20	-2.07	33.87	-13.71
173	Kent St	51.12	-2.93	19.08	2.31
174	Cal Poly SLO	50.92	-0.07	26.11	-9.97
175	Miami OH	50.59	-6.00	26.73	-1.54
176	Albany NY	50.50	-0.29	17.43	-1.99
177	Troy	50.37	-0.12	21.03	-6.19
178	Jacksonville FL	49.56	5.42	13.99	-10.41
179	Furman	49.31	-0.68	12.80	0.32
180	North Dakota	49.22	1.77	10.77	-1.97
181	SE Missouri St	48.91	-0.29	23.92	-12.46
182	Eastern Michigan	48.60	1.05	14.96	-6.50
183	South Dakota	48.47	-2.48	18.57	-4.56
184	New Mexico St	47.79	-5.72	22.83	-5.12
185	Grambling St	46.87	1.87	17.86	-15.08
186	Stony Brook	46.84	-5.18	10.84	3.60
187	Georgia St	46.63	-8.67	31.56	-11.83
188	Idaho	46.32	-9.48	29.35	-9.04
189	Sacramento St	45.39	-4.04	28.59	-19.66
190	Tennessee-Martin	44.90	-4.56	17.18	-8.63
191	Gardner-Webb	44.62	-5.03	17.63	-9.00
192	Colgate	44.43	-6.10	21.40	-11.43
193	Southern Utah	43.91	-7.26	20.35	-9.78
194	Lafayette	43.87	-8.20	19.09	-7.03
195	Alabama St	43.39	-5.09	15.04	-9.36
196	Maine	42.91	-8.02	14.42	-5.07
197	Mercer	42.85	-11.28	18.90	-4.26
198	Northern Arizona	41.95	-8.08	18.27	-11.22
199	Tennessee Tech	41.49	-8.25	14.42	-8.24
200	Tennessee St	41.46	-10.08	11.29	-2.13
201	Dayton	41.35	-6.11	15.25	-12.98
202	Northern Colorado	39.88	-10.06	9.09	-3.92
203	Southern U.	39.78	-3.55	15.49	-21.42
204	San Diego	39.57	-4.02	10.13	-15.81
205	UC-Davis	39.50	-9.70	20.82	-17.18
206	Towson	39.48	-8.65	12.69	-10.88
207	Elon	39.38	-10.38	11.34	-6.89
208	Murray St	39.12	-10.29	21.85	-18.18
209	Texas Southern	38.77	-5.77	10.92	-15.67
210	Wagner	38.18	-14.62	15.08	-6.56
211	Weber St	38.02	-16.72	13.49	-1.88
212	Lehigh	37.45	-16.28	27.94	-18.49
213	Portland St	36.78	-15.10	11.65	-5.84
214	Prairie View A&M	36.49	-12.50	17.77	-16.99

215	UNC-Charlotte	36.21	-17.37	26.39	-18.19
216	North Carolina Central	36.01	-14.48	14.85	-11.97
217	Princeton	35.65	-17.04	17.01	-10.77
218	Morgan St	34.94	-16.51	16.49	-12.93
219	Holy Cross	33.84	-19.60	11.76	-5.76
220	Pennsylvania	33.58	-15.56	10.13	-11.54
221	Norfolk St	33.13	-17.40	-0.71	1.24
222	Austin Peay	32.99	-12.52	8.27	-16.22
223	Drake	32.75	-17.47	7.25	-7.56
224	Delaware St	31.32	-16.72	8.12	-13.25
225	Brown	30.75	-21.38	9.09	-7.89
226	Central Conn St	30.64	-21.87	10.57	-8.82
227	St Francis PA	28.50	-24.76	24.66	-23.43
228	Georgetown DC	28.37	-24.25	3.84	-3.78
229	Florida A&M	28.28	-20.13	3.07	-10.12
230	Hampton	26.68	-26.37	12.45	-13.08
231	Alabama A&M	26.65	-22.22	13.11	-20.73
232	VMI	26.63	-25.51	19.50	-21.71
233	Nicholls St	26.20	-18.10	9.91	-25.54
234	Rhode Island	25.95	-25.45	9.35	-13.35
235	Campbell	25.53	-19.11	0.06	-15.67
236	Howard	24.95	-28.51	17.51	-18.93
237	Robert Morris PA	24.51	-22.94	6.94	-18.73
238	Cornell	23.14	-29.21	7.86	-12.60
239	Jackson St	20.49	-27.29	7.80	-22.37
240	Butler	19.77	-26.54	6.93	-24.57
241	Marist	19.32	-32.83	3.04	-11.33
242	Mississippi Valley St	18.99	-26.17	4.55	-24.76
243	Savannah St	18.11	-29.11	8.99	-26.48
244	Morehead St	17.50	-27.97	6.53	-27.46
245	Houston Baptist	15.47	-30.67	8.13	-29.61
246	Columbia	13.13	-34.85	3.55	-23.93
247	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	9.66	-36.73	8.22	-34.15
248	Stetson	9.14	-39.10	3.99	-27.26
249	Valparaiso	5.70	-46.09	3.19	-23.41
250	Davidson	1.97	-48.87	10.97	-35.90