

RATINGS 10-25-14

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.

I had a suspenseful and ultimately enjoyable Saturday night watching the Tigers win at home in the 7:00 game. Actually, I'm talking about three games, with Clemson at home against Syracuse, LSU at home against Ole Miss, and Auburn at home against South Carolina. I wonder if there is a change in the making in college football. Two of the three games were defensive battles. Clemson won 16-6 in a butt-ugly game, LSU 10-7 in a close thriller (if it had been between ACC teams, it would have been called butt-ugly, too), and Auburn 42-35 in a decidedly offensive game (but only because I find both teams offensive). Is the pendulum about to swing the other way, with defenses catching up to the breakneck offenses? I'm just wondering – and staking a claim to predicting it if it turns out to be right.

My defensive top five are now Ole Miss, Alabama, Stanford, LSU, and Clemson. The SEC has four of the top six on the defensive list. On offense, TCU's 82-point explosion puts the Horned Frogs in first, followed by Mississippi State, Georgia, Baylor, and Ohio State. Both lists, the defensive and the offensive, have successful teams at the top, so perhaps the lesson for now is that there are multiple ways to win games in college football.

If you've scrolled down to the ratings, you might think I have some explaining to do. I will probably cut and paste the following into the postings for the rest of the year. The system is highly sensitive to strength of schedule. Playing a highly ranked team could well help a team's rating more than losing hurts. As the Mississippis and the Alabamas continue to play each other, their ratings will self-perpetuate. Unless they lose to outside teams, expect them to remain 1-4 in one order or another. That is not to say that I think the selection should take all four. However, it is very possible that these are the four best teams in the country. And, by the way, Ole Miss did drop from #1 to #3 in my ratings.

In the ACC, it is looking very much like a Florida State – Duke championship game repeat. Virginia and Georgia Tech battle to stay alive in the Coastal, while Louisville could knock Florida State out of the Final Four but not out of the Atlantic lead. The computer turns out to have a stubborn streak, picking Virginia Tech to win for the third week in a row. Odds are that it will eventually be right. Not to rub it in for the Wahoo fans, but the UNC game is worth a couple of comments. First, the Heels pull a Clint Longley with the backup QB throwing the game winner. Then, up one with 4 minutes remaining, they pull off an onside kick! I've never heard of a team doing that in that situation. A great call that could have gone very wrong. Plus, each of the players wrote a paragraph about the call and received 12 graduate credits.

Now for this week's games. Auburn at Ole Miss is the big one, probably an elimination game for the playoff system. Big games out west, though only marginally of importance in the national championship race, include PAC-12 South showdowns of Utah at Arizona State and Arizona at UCLA. The computer thinks the Arizonas are going to take a hit. In the Big 12, the TCU – West Virginia is suddenly huge, with both teams on a roll. Except for a massive letdown against Baylor (losing a 58-37 4th quarter lead), TCU would be in the conversation for the playoff. But, Morgantown has received another shipment of couches and they're ready to celebrate another win.

This week's predictions are:

Florida State 35, Louisville 23

Virginia Tech 17, Boston College 13

Georgia Tech 35, Virginia 23

TCU 42, West Virginia 38

Duke 35, Pittsburgh 27

Ole Miss 23, Auburn 21

Utah 31, Arizona State 30

UCLA 38, Arizona 34

Something is really wrong when a reasonable trivia question going back 24 years involves a game played well after I started teaching here – *it wasn't that long ago*, he shouted! Oh, well, it's not the only sign that I'm old. The background celebrates the most important game in the Georgia Tech – Virginia rivalry, which the Mud Dobbers lead 18-17-1. In 1990, #1 Virginia lost to the eventual national champion Georgia Tech 41-38, in what was for the time an outrageous point total. On the same day, other losers were #3 Nebraska, #4 Auburn and #5 Illinois. Name the Georgia Tech running back whose 13-yard run and recovery of his own fumble set up the winning field goal. (You can get Moore points by naming the Virginia QB-WR combination that led the Hoos.)

And here are the ratings:

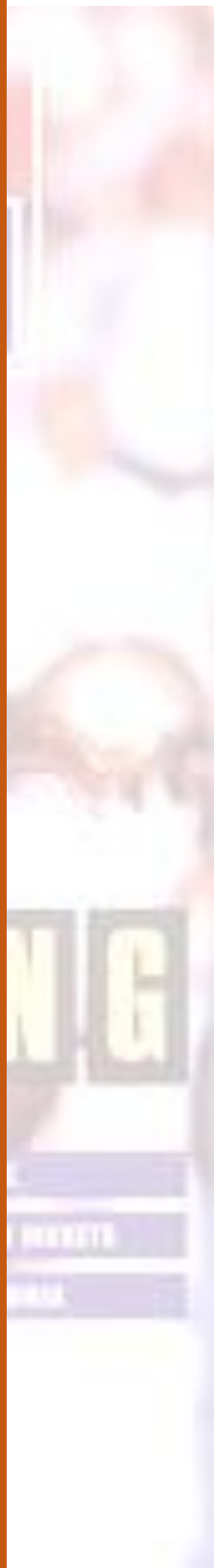
		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Auburn	118.92	65.21	52.95	22.61
2	Mississippi St	118.83	67.21	55.17	16.82
3	Mississippi	116.79	61.92	45.46	30.26
4	Alabama	116.07	60.27	50.27	26.39
5	Florida St	109.78	60.86	48.12	11.82
6	Georgia	109.46	53.20	54.99	16.92
7	TCU	109.42	52.22	57.46	15.99
8	LSU	108.97	54.48	44.57	23.99
9	Oregon	107.78	55.50	50.43	13.47
10	Kansas St	107.63	55.19	43.90	20.12
11	Notre Dame	106.30	55.00	43.15	17.86
12	Michigan St	105.97	51.70	51.42	14.28
13	Oklahoma	105.71	49.23	51.51	17.66
14	Clemson	104.25	51.84	40.88	20.27
15	Nebraska	104.01	50.30	48.54	14.59
16	Baylor	102.42	46.52	53.41	12.04
17	Utah	101.54	50.10	40.33	16.96
18	UCLA	101.39	50.52	45.91	10.29
19	West Virginia	101.28	48.88	45.05	13.62
20	Arizona	101.14	50.64	45.54	9.86
21	Ohio State	100.98	45.21	53.10	10.95
22	Missouri	99.61	48.15	37.04	18.69
23	Texas A&M	99.06	44.51	47.98	12.42
24	Wisconsin	97.10	40.32	45.40	17.09
25	Arizona St	97.01	46.04	44.76	7.96
26	Southern Cal	96.43	42.29	43.32	14.22
27	Boise St	95.28	45.78	42.36	6.48
28	Florida	94.13	39.29	44.56	12.22
29	Louisville	93.41	38.70	38.86	17.10
30	Arkansas	92.70	34.73	45.71	15.10
31	Colorado St	92.68	44.63	35.02	9.24
32	Minnesota	92.58	41.57	35.45	13.67
33	Marshall	92.56	37.64	46.17	9.42
34	Georgia Tech	92.45	39.89	44.67	6.90
35	Tennessee	91.93	34.38	39.47	20.01
36	South Carolina	91.56	37.69	46.48	6.54
37	Duke	91.34	38.26	38.42	13.11
38	Oklahoma St	91.16	40.29	37.80	9.90
39	Miami FL	90.74	36.54	39.95	12.94
40	Maryland	90.52	39.19	40.38	7.54
41	Kentucky	90.52	37.79	40.01	10.24
42	North Dakota St	90.36	39.95	31.16	15.10
43	Stanford	89.83	34.56	29.01	24.90
44	East Carolina	89.10	37.54	42.16	4.97



45	Iowa	87.84	36.32	31.34	14.67
46	Washington	87.74	35.56	33.64	13.39
47	Central Florida	87.66	36.19	33.53	12.24
48	Louisiana Tech	87.16	34.69	37.97	9.03
49	Memphis	86.42	29.85	41.09	12.14
50	Illinois St	86.30	35.09	35.38	8.81
51	Virginia Tech	85.97	31.28	30.07	19.65
52	North Carolina	85.80	34.73	48.90	-5.33
53	Boston College	85.65	32.18	33.10	14.33
54	Nevada	85.55	34.74	33.26	9.66
55	California	84.70	31.86	47.16	-1.57
56	Syracuse	83.47	30.04	31.64	13.91
57	Utah St	83.36	32.00	31.11	10.90
58	Virginia	83.31	27.73	34.22	14.78
59	North Carolina St	83.20	31.26	38.10	4.74
60	Penn State	83.17	28.61	30.45	16.72
61	Northwestern	82.81	27.90	29.50	17.96
62	Brigham Young	82.24	28.27	43.58	1.85
63	Texas	81.50	26.76	28.93	17.18
64	Illinois	81.27	30.59	36.02	3.10
65	Toledo	80.85	29.98	38.80	0.29
66	Cincinnati	80.11	27.23	39.81	2.00
67	Arkansas St	80.06	26.73	34.72	7.83
68	Purdue	79.98	26.73	37.68	4.66
69	Iowa St	79.97	26.43	40.18	2.62
70	Rutgers	79.91	28.38	33.06	6.36
71	Oregon St	79.67	27.94	35.45	4.10
72	Indiana	79.18	27.47	37.88	1.21
73	Pittsburgh	79.10	23.54	38.85	6.59
74	Texas Tech	78.78	28.04	39.82	-2.67
75	Michigan	78.69	23.90	30.16	13.68
76	Louisiana-Lafayette	78.44	29.10	33.45	1.10
77	Houston	78.15	23.10	30.82	12.98
78	Georgia Southern	77.64	20.27	40.23	7.01
79	Coastal Carolina	77.60	30.92	32.65	-3.23
80	Northern Illinois	77.54	28.21	36.06	-2.29
81	Indiana St	77.47	25.92	30.03	7.38
82	Middle Tennessee St	77.07	24.91	36.24	1.85
83	Rice	76.53	24.18	33.54	4.43
84	Air Force	76.41	27.25	28.30	4.25
85	Washington St	75.68	19.75	44.59	-1.37
86	Jacksonville St	75.54	26.34	29.98	1.91
87	New Hampshire	75.17	26.44	30.49	0.33
88	UTEP	75.14	25.09	32.13	0.82
89	Villanova	74.67	22.81	35.59	-0.01



90	Western Michigan	74.40	21.64	34.11	2.77
91	South Dakota St	74.35	24.41	30.37	1.77
92	South Alabama	73.88	21.90	23.15	11.98
93	San José St	73.62	22.48	29.45	4.07
94	Central Michigan	73.19	21.81	26.17	7.40
95	San Diego St	72.64	20.91	21.54	12.17
96	Alabama- Birmingham	72.32	17.05	35.04	4.26
97	Eastern Washington	72.18	24.07	37.85	-10.58
98	Navy	72.06	17.91	31.26	5.97
99	Fresno St	71.79	20.48	34.21	-1.93
100	Youngstown St	71.75	21.69	25.85	4.32
101	Wyoming	71.72	22.69	26.65	1.75
102	Colorado	71.24	16.37	37.37	0.39
103	Temple	71.00	15.00	33.72	5.72
104	Western Kentucky	70.99	15.51	46.42	-7.86
105	Florida Atlantic	70.51	18.92	29.87	1.81
106	Southern Miss	70.13	19.53	25.01	4.71
107	Missouri St	69.75	18.38	25.10	5.59
108	Vanderbilt	69.74	16.96	26.88	6.16
109	Bowling Green	69.37	19.13	31.46	-2.98
110	South Florida	68.62	16.53	25.06	5.88
111	Southern Illinois	67.89	15.21	29.62	1.69
112	Kansas	67.62	15.98	23.09	6.24
113	Northern Iowa	67.17	11.19	31.73	4.49
114	Idaho St	67.12	15.80	36.10	-7.71
115	Montana St	66.88	17.59	34.33	-9.50
116	Chattanooga	66.70	12.40	30.43	2.60
117	SE Louisiana	66.60	15.24	25.87	2.18
118	Sam Houston St	66.21	16.05	28.94	-3.23
119	Florida Int'l	66.21	10.98	26.29	7.89
120	Louisiana-Monroe	65.81	14.83	22.61	4.13
121	Western Carolina	65.60	14.39	28.83	-1.89
122	Texas-San Antonio	65.50	11.52	24.34	7.15
123	Richmond	65.29	13.96	30.15	-3.24
124	Akron	65.16	10.23	25.13	7.67
125	Liberty	64.80	13.63	30.63	-4.41
126	Texas St-San Marcos	64.77	13.01	26.85	0.33
127	Hawai`i	64.68	9.20	26.92	6.40
128	Ball St	64.57	9.68	28.95	3.26
129	Northwestern St	64.34	15.96	29.02	-7.84
130	Stephen F. Austin	64.21	15.61	30.33	-8.88
131	Central Arkansas	64.06	11.92	33.45	-6.23
132	Ohio U.	63.78	12.11	21.97	4.23



133	Wake Forest	63.25	10.09	21.12	7.14
134	Tulane	63.16	10.04	24.12	3.99
135	Presbyterian	63.13	19.60	9.58	2.52
136	Fordham	63.07	9.85	31.57	-3.37
137	Bryant	63.04	15.81	18.45	-0.25
138	Harvard	62.71	11.23	23.44	1.57
139	McNeese St	62.67	7.88	25.70	4.78
140	Eastern Kentucky	62.66	13.85	22.67	-2.18
141	Old Dominion	61.93	10.05	33.12	-8.10
142	Samford	61.86	5.63	30.24	1.97
143	New Mexico	61.33	8.43	28.77	-2.56
144	William & Mary	61.20	11.18	25.50	-4.21
145	Montana	60.86	11.87	20.64	-1.34
146	Yale	60.00	10.00	30.55	20.26
147	Cal Poly SLO	59.58	9.16	28.49	-7.87
148	Western Illinois	59.34	4.43	25.63	2.28
149	Bethune-Cookman	59.05	10.14	19.92	-2.25
150	Eastern Illinois	59.03	3.83	30.84	-2.71
151	South Carolina St	58.42	13.79	14.44	-4.44
152	James Madison	58.08	8.74	24.82	-7.26
153	UNLV	57.97	8.83	23.90	-6.76
154	Dartmouth	57.76	12.45	23.71	-13.12
155	Wofford	57.45	4.49	20.70	2.38
156	Alcorn St	56.76	5.46	28.35	-8.61
157	North Texas	56.66	1.91	30.82	-5.40
158	Tulsa	55.84	2.48	30.80	-8.41
159	Massachusetts	55.35	-1.55	34.57	-6.68
160	Buffalo	55.00	1.12	29.93	-7.37
161	North Carolina A&T	54.84	5.89	18.56	-4.34
162	Appalachian St	54.78	-2.42	35.31	-7.39
163	Connecticut	54.72	-0.16	18.58	5.43
164	Albany NY	54.67	4.89	17.49	-2.01
165	Northern Arizona	54.46	6.74	18.01	-6.14
166	Miami OH	54.11	-1.72	25.30	-0.21
167	Bucknell	53.95	6.29	18.13	-6.80
168	Charleston Southern	53.67	3.49	18.97	-3.68
169	Army	52.96	-0.93	34.01	-13.12
170	SMU	52.63	4.25	14.74	-3.32
171	Jacksonville FL	51.75	7.50	13.21	-9.40
172	Sacred Heart	51.74	2.65	15.15	-3.29
173	New Mexico St	51.63	-2.27	23.83	-4.03
174	Lamar	51.36	5.84	24.97	-19.37
175	The Citadel	51.20	-2.46	21.03	-1.99
176	South Dakota	51.13	1.26	19.84	-7.19
177	Monmouth NJ	51.07	0.82	23.70	-10.46



178	Troy	50.80	-1.35	22.00	-5.81
179	Duquesne	50.64	-0.93	20.17	-5.08
180	Eastern Michigan	50.06	0.66	14.94	-3.95
181	Tennessee-Martin	49.31	-0.27	17.66	-7.00
182	Kent St	49.14	-6.13	16.58	3.42
183	Idaho	49.07	-6.93	29.63	-8.46
184	Furman	48.46	-1.86	12.34	-1.14
185	Stony Brook	48.41	-4.31	12.00	3.16
186	Southern Utah	48.31	-2.80	21.83	-9.46
187	Sacramento St	48.21	-1.37	28.42	-18.67
188	SE Missouri St	48.06	-2.14	23.52	-12.87
189	Delaware	47.77	-0.30	13.91	-7.07
190	Georgia St	47.69	-7.35	31.93	-13.53
191	Grambling St	47.46	2.07	15.71	-13.57
192	San Diego	45.72	2.47	12.78	-15.67
193	Mercer	45.52	-9.93	21.98	-4.68
194	Maine	45.37	-4.63	12.76	-4.70
195	North Dakota	45.32	-3.61	10.03	-3.77
196	Colgate	43.86	-7.51	19.53	-10.41
197	Portland St	43.75	-7.81	14.24	-4.92
198	Tennessee Tech	43.47	-4.85	13.65	-9.95
199	Gardner-Webb	43.20	-6.99	14.65	-8.08
200	Southern U.	42.56	-1.07	13.37	-18.26
201	Northern Colorado	42.30	-7.18	10.18	-5.53
202	Wagner	42.07	-9.70	14.06	-5.78
203	Lafayette	41.26	-12.00	17.98	-7.90
204	Murray St	40.81	-8.89	21.59	-17.81
205	Tennessee St	40.56	-12.07	9.70	-1.24
206	UC-Davis	40.43	-9.18	20.30	-16.99
207	Towson	40.00	-8.45	12.70	-11.68
208	Elon	39.71	-11.05	9.75	-5.14
209	Weber St	39.49	-15.45	14.72	-3.31
210	Holy Cross	39.34	-13.79	13.12	-4.85
	North Carolina				
211	Central	39.22	-11.52	14.93	-10.75
212	Dayton	38.91	-8.84	14.00	-15.05
213	St Francis PA	38.76	-11.83	24.73	-21.18
214	Morgan St	38.61	-13.74	18.59	-12.24
215	Alabama St	38.55	-11.91	13.52	-10.37
216	Lehigh	36.61	-17.16	25.37	-18.33
217	Princeton	36.33	-15.21	16.52	-13.41
218	Brown	36.32	-16.25	12.10	-7.29
219	UNC-Charlotte	35.62	-19.23	27.74	-19.68
220	Norfolk St	35.22	-15.59	0.62	0.34
221	Drake	34.86	-13.65	5.20	-8.37



222	Pennsylvania	34.67	-14.62	16.60	-18.62
223	Prairie View A&M	33.80	-16.16	20.97	-22.60
224	Hampton	33.51	-18.89	11.67	-9.49
225	Austin Peay	32.79	-13.01	7.02	-16.42
226	Texas Southern	31.11	-15.88	7.42	-16.24
227	Alabama A&M	30.88	-17.45	15.47	-22.24
228	Central Conn St	30.19	-23.02	9.91	-9.13
229	Georgetown DC	30.14	-23.14	4.73	-3.87
230	Florida A&M	29.38	-20.07	5.46	-11.62
231	Houston Baptist	29.21	-14.59	8.10	-23.84
232	VMI	28.39	-23.55	17.89	-20.73
233	Rhode Island	27.67	-24.34	9.46	-12.78
234	Delaware St	27.65	-21.48	5.16	-13.30
235	Nicholls St	26.26	-18.68	8.68	-24.95
236	Howard	25.57	-28.67	16.69	-18.05
237	Robert Morris PA	23.37	-24.29	6.25	-20.39
238	Marist	22.43	-28.36	2.83	-12.54
239	Campbell	22.30	-24.84	0.06	-15.96
240	Butler	21.61	-26.72	7.90	-22.40
241	Jackson St	20.75	-27.50	7.44	-22.80
242	Cornell	20.51	-32.23	8.00	-16.07
243	Morehead St	18.70	-26.73	8.35	-30.10
244	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	18.13	-26.88	11.52	-34.45
245	Mississippi Valley St	17.73	-28.34	2.71	-24.21
246	Columbia	17.20	-30.30	0.17	-19.73
247	Savannah St	16.40	-31.91	7.47	-26.35
248	Stetson	14.47	-33.52	4.50	-25.51
249	Valparaiso	4.65	-47.83	5.66	-27.39
250	Davidson	0.57	-50.91	9.55	-36.35

