

RATINGS 11-22-14

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 am grateful for the technical assistance of Dan Larsen in compiling the data.

It's time for a feast! I'm thinking of Thanksgiving meals, yes, but also the fantastic lineup of games for this weekend! No 51-0 blowouts or 6-3 debacles (no offense, Hokie fans) this week. Fill up your plate with rivalry games with major implications for the playoffs and bowls.

What do you think of the playoff committee? I had expected that issuing weekly rankings would be a mistake, with the committee locking in the top teams too early and never adjusting. However, they have been more than willing to move teams up and down on the basis of ugly wins or impressive losses. Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher is on the warpath against the use of the Game Control statistic. If you haven't heard, Game Control starts by computing the probability of winning a game given the current situation. A team that jumps ahead 28-0 in the first quarter and cruises home 42-21 could have a near-100 average win probability. A team that is tied with 7 minutes and busts loose to win 42-21 could have an average win probability closer to 50. The final score is the same, but Game Control gives the first team credit for never being challenged. Of course, Florida State's penchant for falling behind means that they don't rank very high in Game Control. And that is Jimbo's real gripe. We'll see if the committee gets it "right" at the end, but so far they have been more thoughtful and analytical than I expected.

There are so many great games this week, let's get to it.

Thursday. LSU 28, Texas A&M 27 and TCU 35, Texas 20

Good games, but not the same as the traditional Texas – Texas A&M battle.

Friday. Nebraska 31, Iowa 27 for the Heroes Trophy. (I would have chosen a cornier name.)

Missouri 27, Arkansas 22. This looked like an easy win for Mizzou a month ago but the Hogs have caught fire. A Missouri win puts them in the SEC title game.

This "rivalry game" has – this year – been dubbed the Battle Line Rivalry Presented by Shelter Insurance. Yup, that should catch on.

Arizona 35, Arizona State 28. The winners place their mark on the Territorial Cup.

More importantly, the winner might get to the Pac-12 title game.

Virginia Tech 18, Virginia 15. (In 6 overtimes?) Hoo fans should be pleased with this prediction, as the system has missed 5 VT games in a row. No postgame frat party, though. For the Commonwealth Cup and a bowl.

Saturday. Georgia 42, Georgia Tech 27. The Clean, Old-Fashioned Hate game.
Clemson 33, South Carolina 24. Only if Deshaun Watson is healthy. The Palmetto Bowl, though it used to be Big Thursday.
Florida State 35, Florida 24. Apparently called the Sunshine Showdown. A big chance for the Gators to ruin the Noles' season.
Louisville 35, Kentucky 22. The Governor's Cup, bluegrass style.
Ohio State 42, Michigan 14. The Game between The University of Michigan and ...
Louisiana Tech 33, Rice 24. For a Conference-USA division title.
Indiana 33, Purdue 31. The Old Oaken Bucket. Indiana RB Tevin Coleman is special.
North Carolina 45, NC State 38. Cleverly known as the Carolina-State game.
Appalachian State 49, Idaho 23. A Sun Belt Conference matchup.
Southern Cal 35, Notre Dame 29. For the Jeweled Shillelagh. I have no idea what that is, but this is (cue Keith Jackson) the Granddaddy of intersectional tilts.
Ole Miss 24, Mississippi State 23. The biggest Egg Bowl ever! The Bulldogs probably make the playoffs if they win.
Wisconsin 32, Minnesota 20. Winner to the Big 10 title game, with a big swing of Paul Bunyan's Axe.
Alabama 31, Auburn 21. The Iron Bowl, and way more for Alabama. Revenge for last year, the SEC title game, a spot in the playoffs, and just beating Auburn.
Oregon 51, Oregon State 21. The Civil War, and the only trophy that Ducks and Beavers should play for: the Platypus Trophy.
Boise State 36, Utah State 24. For a Mountain West division title.
Washington 38, Washington State 28. The Apple Cup is a little wormy this year.
Nevada 39, UNLV 21. For the Fremont Cannon and state supremacy.
Kansas State 44, Kansas 6. The Governor's Cup is not in much doubt.
Michigan State 32, Penn State 14. The Land Grant Trophy.
UTSA 24, North Texas 19. TSA gives the Mean Green a light pat-down.

The background shows a Virginia Tech player attempting a field goal against Virginia in 1964. This year's winner goes to a bowl game, the loser does not. Did you know that the 1963 game *was* a bowl game? Kind of: the Harvest Bowl was played on October 5, 1963, at Victory Stadium in Roanoke! The Fighting Gobblers won the game on their way to a conference championship under coach Jerry Claiborne – the Southern Conference championship, that is!

And here are the ratings:

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Alabama	117.95	62.20	47.97	24.93
2	Oregon	114.94	60.69	53.51	14.37
3	TCU	114.71	59.23	55.05	14.70
4	Mississippi St	113.57	58.54	49.85	18.20
5	Georgia	113.06	55.50	54.95	16.87
6	UCLA	111.95	61.26	46.31	13.16
7	Auburn	111.83	55.87	49.56	18.58
8	Florida St	111.50	61.91	45.49	11.77
9	Ohio State	111.48	56.85	53.05	12.58
10	Mississippi	110.83	54.34	43.17	25.03
11	Baylor	110.46	52.73	56.14	13.83
12	Kansas St	109.49	55.54	43.90	18.97
13	Michigan St	109.40	53.48	50.93	15.13
14	Wisconsin	107.45	51.59	46.24	18.09
15	Missouri	107.24	55.23	37.97	19.78
16	Oklahoma	106.99	49.93	49.08	16.85
17	Arizona	105.99	54.26	42.65	13.58
18	LSU	105.11	47.48	41.38	23.96
19	Arizona St	103.16	51.30	44.25	9.83
20	Georgia Tech	102.42	48.44	46.29	10.72
21	Arkansas	102.37	43.54	44.04	21.00
22	Texas A&M	101.51	46.54	47.68	10.20
23	Nebraska	100.80	45.94	45.94	11.18
24	Southern Cal	100.51	46.20	41.67	14.27
25	Florida	100.12	43.39	42.72	16.97
26	Utah	100.05	47.90	38.31	13.67
27	Minnesota	99.87	47.16	38.33	14.44
28	Clemson	99.66	45.94	35.91	18.37
29	West Virginia	98.60	42.62	43.80	13.34
30	Boise St	98.58	47.64	45.37	3.37
31	Notre Dame	98.44	44.31	45.40	8.53
32	Louisville	98.15	43.56	39.47	15.01
33	Tennessee	98.14	40.50	42.07	17.47
34	Marshall	97.80	42.37	45.56	10.03
35	Colorado St	96.55	45.92	38.68	7.84
36	Maryland	95.39	43.49	38.94	8.73
37	Texas	94.68	39.88	32.31	19.60
38	South Carolina	94.62	39.04	45.87	7.30
39	Washington	93.23	39.38	36.28	12.87
40	North Dakota St	93.06	40.69	31.94	14.59
41	Miami FL	93.02	37.04	38.19	14.32
42	Stanford	92.98	36.81	29.95	22.85
43	Iowa	92.91	39.21	35.28	13.32
44	Duke	91.87	37.18	38.62	10.79
45	Memphis	90.87	35.55	37.73	11.89



46	Utah St	90.62	38.48	31.05	13.08
47	North Carolina	89.79	37.16	47.01	-2.77
48	Boston College	89.40	35.03	34.27	12.53
49	Cincinnati	89.04	35.40	42.55	2.74
50	Virginia	88.96	33.42	33.99	14.41
51	California	88.75	34.64	46.94	-1.10
52	Kentucky	88.67	33.49	40.38	7.17
53	Northwestern	88.21	33.80	31.66	14.22
54	Louisiana Tech	87.57	31.89	38.14	9.31
55	Oklahoma St	87.38	34.15	36.49	6.74
56	North Carolina St	86.94	34.68	37.64	3.59
57	Penn State	86.90	31.83	28.15	17.72
58	Illinois St	86.54	34.36	35.97	4.81
59	East Carolina	86.52	31.77	39.97	5.07
60	Virginia Tech	86.48	30.05	30.31	17.50
61	Michigan	86.29	31.54	29.15	15.69
62	Brigham Young	86.10	31.45	39.41	5.10
63	Northern Illinois	85.76	36.38	34.02	1.45
64	Central Florida	85.43	31.44	34.12	8.76
65	Rutgers	85.38	33.99	31.80	6.68
66	Illinois	84.58	32.97	34.21	3.97
67	Toledo	83.64	32.03	35.72	1.67
68	Nevada	83.40	31.05	33.43	4.99
69	Northern Iowa	83.12	28.46	34.44	7.62
70	Jacksonville St	83.08	32.32	29.84	5.67
71	Pittsburgh	82.73	25.24	39.89	6.56
72	Rice	82.43	30.02	31.39	6.35
73	Air Force	82.20	31.78	29.54	4.68
74	South Dakota St	81.76	30.01	33.52	2.55
75	Texas Tech	81.70	28.66	39.72	-1.55
76	Western Michigan	81.16	26.60	35.72	4.55
77	Oregon St	80.65	27.18	33.57	4.44
78	Navy	80.64	24.62	36.42	5.82
79	Georgia Southern	80.19	24.05	37.86	4.22
80	Washington St	79.61	24.13	42.38	-1.89
81	Purdue	79.50	24.04	34.48	5.87
82	Houston	78.91	23.36	30.77	9.25
83	Louisiana-Lafayette	78.73	26.98	31.18	2.37
84	Western Kentucky	78.36	23.41	43.40	-4.81
85	Syracuse	78.17	22.64	26.58	12.79
86	Eastern Washington	77.89	27.41	40.31	-9.58
87	Indiana St	77.70	25.92	27.50	5.24
88	Coastal Carolina	77.65	26.65	31.82	-0.42
89	Indiana	77.54	23.16	35.52	1.40
90	Arkansas St	77.37	21.36	36.08	3.43
91	Chattanooga	77.29	22.52	32.97	4.40



92	New Hampshire	77.02	26.99	31.22	-1.99
93	San Diego St	76.88	23.75	23.81	10.49
94	Iowa St	76.69	21.46	36.33	1.32
95	Fresno St	76.66	25.07	33.23	-1.68
96	UTEP	76.49	23.75	30.06	3.28
97	Central Michigan	76.38	23.41	27.64	5.99
98	Middle Tennessee St	76.26	23.15	33.49	0.27
99	Colorado	75.95	20.66	36.11	1.02
100	Bowling Green	75.93	24.14	31.82	-0.53
101	Kansas	75.79	21.79	26.58	8.27
102	Temple	75.51	18.54	30.28	9.30
103	Villanova	75.49	23.40	32.87	-1.47
104	Alabama-Birmingham	75.21	18.70	35.33	3.21
105	Wyoming	75.19	24.57	26.46	2.25
106	Vanderbilt	75.17	22.39	26.97	5.33
107	Sam Houston St	74.23	22.50	31.95	-2.18
108	South Alabama	72.56	19.82	21.69	8.36
109	Samford	72.08	17.31	27.90	5.13
110	SE Louisiana	72.01	17.66	29.75	2.53
111	Liberty	71.90	21.57	29.17	-3.67
112	Appalachian St	71.34	15.84	35.21	-1.58
113	Youngstown St	71.07	18.63	26.12	2.18
114	Idaho St	70.20	18.45	33.65	-7.20
115	South Florida	70.09	17.25	22.96	5.20
116	Southern Illinois	70.06	16.02	30.26	-0.12
117	Old Dominion	69.78	17.70	34.42	-7.78
118	Wake Forest	69.67	15.92	22.83	6.49
119	Texas St-San Marcos	69.61	14.66	30.42	0.85
120	Stephen F. Austin	69.08	19.81	27.26	-5.89
121	Montana	69.04	18.10	20.66	3.46
122	Ohio U.	68.92	15.54	21.93	6.15
123	Harvard	68.76	19.11	22.99	-1.26
124	San José St	68.73	14.88	25.55	3.17
125	James Madison	68.50	18.25	30.41	-7.88
126	Western Illinois	68.45	15.15	27.48	0.08
127	Hawai'i	68.15	12.86	25.99	4.63
128	Tulane	67.74	14.07	23.02	4.57
129	Charleston Southern	67.47	16.94	22.63	-0.50
130	New Mexico	67.01	14.02	30.91	-5.05
131	Southern Miss	66.92	14.34	24.63	0.48
132	Louisiana-Monroe	66.69	11.25	23.59	6.08
133	Montana St	66.60	16.24	29.63	-8.51
134	Florida Int'l	66.48	10.07	25.40	5.72
135	Central Arkansas	66.28	13.35	32.31	-7.17
136	Eastern Kentucky	66.27	16.40	24.35	-4.33
137	Florida Atlantic	66.25	11.40	28.27	0.04



138	Fordham	66.17	12.37	31.87	-5.38
139	Akron	66.03	10.80	22.76	6.02
140	Richmond	65.98	15.18	24.59	-3.25
141	Missouri St	65.47	10.85	24.23	3.04
142	Texas-San Antonio	65.33	10.97	19.63	7.10
143	Ball St	65.29	9.97	27.42	0.88
144	Presbyterian	64.89	19.10	10.40	1.70
145	North Texas	64.31	9.12	28.85	-1.59
146	Western Carolina	63.67	11.51	25.67	-3.98
147	Eastern Illinois	62.72	7.13	28.02	-1.41
148	Cal Poly SLO	62.42	10.48	26.37	-6.11
149	Northwestern St	62.07	10.02	27.30	-7.15
150	Army	61.56	8.21	30.25	-8.34
151	UNLV	61.39	10.00	25.77	-7.28
152	Tennessee-Martin	61.18	9.58	22.61	-3.95
153	Buffalo	61.00	5.79	32.30	-7.76
154	William & Mary	60.86	9.38	21.70	-3.49
155	Massachusetts	60.42	3.60	31.41	-4.67
156	Sacred Heart	60.41	11.53	17.30	-3.81
157	Bryant	60.30	9.71	17.40	-1.15
158	Dartmouth	60.29	10.80	22.25	-7.83
159	Yale	60.00	10.00	28.44	15.01
160	Tulsa	59.84	4.96	30.36	-7.33
161	Connecticut	59.64	5.06	19.29	3.06
162	McNeese St	59.28	4.78	19.66	2.26
163	Lamar	59.11	9.53	27.78	-14.19
164	Wofford	58.82	3.98	20.54	1.57
165	The Citadel	58.30	4.32	23.66	-3.43
166	Miami OH	58.26	1.95	25.38	-1.30
167	Troy	57.92	4.21	22.46	-2.99
168	South Carolina St	56.99	8.01	16.94	-6.11
169	Bethune-Cookman	56.94	7.49	17.26	-5.69
170	Sacramento St	56.63	6.62	28.78	-16.54
171	Albany NY	56.10	4.72	20.06	-5.98
172	North Carolina A&T	56.04	3.74	16.90	-1.35
173	Bucknell	55.39	5.80	17.36	-6.85
174	Kent St	55.07	-0.80	18.28	2.43
175	South Dakota	53.58	0.53	21.71	-6.95
176	SMU	53.52	2.40	16.05	-4.56
177	Northern Arizona	53.51	2.86	16.45	-5.75
178	Alcorn St	53.51	-0.15	25.16	-9.45
179	Maine	53.17	2.29	13.53	-2.73
180	Delaware	53.14	3.69	15.65	-7.27
181	SE Missouri St	53.02	0.42	23.77	-10.23
182	Eastern Michigan	52.21	1.64	16.73	-7.26
183	Tennessee Tech	51.78	2.21	14.84	-7.39



184	Monmouth NJ	51.60	0.58	20.70	-10.99
185	Southern Utah	51.54	-0.14	19.33	-8.55
186	Wagner	51.38	1.08	13.09	-4.76
187	New Mexico St	51.30	-4.45	24.09	-6.73
188	North Carolina Central	49.56	-1.29	17.38	-9.64
189	Jacksonville FL	49.56	0.38	14.57	-9.60
190	Idaho	49.54	-8.32	28.14	-8.74
191	Stony Brook	49.41	-5.18	12.66	1.18
192	Tennessee St	49.39	-2.92	15.88	-5.86
193	Lafayette	48.53	-4.20	16.22	-6.20
194	Furman	48.36	-5.06	15.28	-4.24
195	Morgan St	48.09	-3.10	19.79	-12.71
196	North Dakota	47.78	-1.90	10.96	-6.65
197	Southern U.	47.61	1.97	15.67	-18.24
198	San Diego	47.45	3.28	10.37	-15.54
199	Georgia St	47.41	-7.51	24.60	-11.87
200	Grambling St	47.15	-0.63	16.26	-15.64
201	Weber St	46.76	-7.55	17.28	-6.12
202	Mercer	46.47	-10.33	20.55	-5.48
203	Duquesne	46.42	-7.26	14.28	-4.43
204	Portland St	45.09	-8.65	15.17	-6.35
205	Colgate	44.81	-8.16	14.66	-7.35
206	Gardner-Webb	44.74	-6.63	12.86	-8.26
207	St Francis PA	44.52	-7.84	21.47	-15.43
208	Northern Colorado	44.43	-6.30	10.77	-7.50
209	UNC-Charlotte	44.26	-10.74	27.24	-17.00
210	UC-Davis	43.91	-9.05	20.78	-14.22
211	Alabama St	43.51	-7.20	12.91	-10.46
212	Brown	42.54	-9.39	15.46	-11.79
213	Holy Cross	42.01	-11.81	12.56	-6.15
214	Towson	41.63	-8.73	10.59	-10.29
215	Drake	41.59	-5.99	6.19	-10.54
216	Murray St	41.07	-11.84	25.45	-21.36
217	Dayton	40.76	-7.26	12.69	-17.00
218	Princeton	40.39	-9.88	16.68	-17.55
219	Lehigh	40.09	-13.23	20.17	-16.20
220	Norfolk St	38.64	-13.21	1.46	-1.15
221	Elon	38.39	-15.11	10.44	-7.59
222	Prairie View A&M	38.23	-11.93	20.64	-23.49
223	Howard	38.10	-13.32	15.65	-16.50
224	VMI	36.86	-16.23	19.92	-19.04
225	Georgetown DC	35.49	-16.96	4.97	-6.29
226	Florida A&M	35.26	-16.94	8.76	-10.69
227	Hampton	34.71	-18.64	13.68	-14.15
228	Pennsylvania	34.32	-18.24	13.21	-15.32
229	Central Conn St	34.31	-19.51	10.47	-10.48



230	Rhode Island	34.10	-17.65	8.38	-12.04
231	Austin Peay	33.91	-13.72	6.90	-17.58
232	Nicholls St	30.28	-15.31	9.42	-26.51
233	Marist	29.57	-20.84	1.78	-11.42
234	Alabama A&M	29.24	-21.96	10.91	-19.51
235	Jackson St	29.06	-20.49	6.06	-17.58
236	Houston Baptist	27.75	-12.68	5.44	-33.25
237	Texas Southern	26.97	-22.60	3.98	-17.21
238	Campbell	25.54	-23.34	2.25	-17.83
239	Robert Morris PA	24.10	-25.33	2.16	-18.01
240	Delaware St	24.01	-25.62	2.21	-17.81
241	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	23.86	-21.94	6.73	-28.82
242	Cornell	23.47	-28.40	6.79	-19.09
243	Butler	22.25	-27.84	5.61	-21.90
244	Morehead St	20.98	-26.42	10.51	-32.33
245	Stetson	20.53	-27.56	3.80	-24.85
246	Savannah St	19.61	-27.50	4.51	-27.97
247	Columbia	18.92	-30.83	2.28	-21.90
248	Valparaiso	18.40	-32.24	2.38	-20.96
249	Mississippi Valley St	16.93	-31.06	0.74	-24.97
250	Davidson	3.38	-46.94	3.49	-35.12

