

RATINGS 11-29-14

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 looking like the selection committee is going to get off easy. Assuming no upsets this weekend, Alabama, Oregon, and Florida State are no-brainers. A Kansas State win over Baylor and Wisconsin over Ohio State would remove all discussion about whether TCU should be leap-frogged. But, what if Baylor wins? Do we have to endure more "but Baylor beat TCU" logic? Baylor needed a miracle comeback, at home, to beat TCU by 3, and then lost badly at West Virginia (a place where TCU won). Is that really conclusive evidence that Baylor is better? To me, the only way head-to-head counts is if you're more concerned with who "deserves" to be in the playoff than who is better. I'd rather have the best teams in the playoffs, but many of our traditional arguments are about who deserves to be there. (Florida State is unbeaten, so they deserve to be there. But, does anybody really think they're playing the best?) Perhaps the emphasis on who deserves to be there will fade as we move away from the poll-dominated past.

On the other hand, what happens if Georgia Tech beats Florida State? Missouri beats Alabama? Arizona beats Oregon (again)? Do you penalize these teams for losing the extra game that some of the other conferences don't have? Would the upset winners all have to end up ranked higher than the losers? That scenario would be interesting.

The games this week are mostly conference championship games, plus a couple of significant Big 12 games and several insignificant games in the AAC. That's different from the ACC, which gave the SEC a 4-0 whipping over the weekend. These, of course, were games between the ACC's best (probably literally the 4 best teams) against the SEC's, well, not-the-best. Still, I've seen a couple of articles claiming that the SEC is overrated. If there are some upsets, the ACC successes could actually cause the committee to not include two SEC teams.

You might notice that my ratings jumped Ole Miss back into the top four. Florida State is fifth, which is the highest I've had them; that's a result of the ACC's big week improving the Noles' strength of schedule. Using wins only, Florida State is actually #1 in my ratings, but their penchant for falling behind early hurts them in the point spread ratings. Alabama is #1 in the point ratings and #2 in the win ratings. TCU and Baylor are 1-2 in the offense ratings, while Ole Miss has the #1 defense.

Let's get to the predictions. In the regular season, I add 4 points for the home team. The predictions below do not adjust for home field except for the two games played on site (Louisiana Tech at Marshall and Fresno at Boise).

Baylor 38, Kansas State 34 : major implications for the playoffs!

TCU 54, Iowa State 12 : I suppose they have to play it, though.

Oklahoma 42, Oklahoma State 18 : Bedlam breaks out and no one cares

And pour some Dr. Pepper and enjoy

ACC Championship: Florida State 35, Georgia Tech 28

SEC Championship: Alabama 31, Missouri 20

PAC-12 Championship: Oregon 40, Arizona 33 (Arizona won earlier, 31-24)

Big 10 Championship: Ohio State 38, Wisconsin 34 (the ratings don't know about injuries)

MAC Championship: Northern Illinois 35, Bowling Green 21

USA Championship: Marshall 38, Louisiana Tech 31

MWC Championship: Boise State 48, Fresno State 24 (and a major bowl for the boise)

The predictions last week were 79% winners (48-13) and 61% against the spread (37-24). For the season, the final totals are 74% winners (269-96) and 55% against the spread (199-166). The system is so simple that I am amazed it does this well.

The background shows the very first play in Miami Dolphin history: a 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown! (Oddly, the Saints started the same way.) The returner was a running back on the 1963 Georgia Tech team that beat Florida State 15-7. The Jackets' QB was Billy Lothridge, who went on to become a decent punter for the Dallas Cowboys. FSU was led by Fred Biletnikoff. The trivia question is a Chris Berman-inspired fill-in-the-blank: the Georgia Tech running back was Joe (Man of the) ___ and the Florida State QB was Steve (Pass) ____.

And here are the ratings:

		Overall	Win	Offense	Defense
1	Alabama	117.99	62.43	50.15	22.67
2	TCU	115.36	59.31	55.97	15.48
3	Oregon	114.43	59.89	53.63	14.55
4	Mississippi	112.37	56.07	43.48	25.91
5	Florida St	112.15	62.63	45.15	12.75
6	Ohio State	111.89	57.83	53.29	11.96
7	Mississippi St	110.01	54.04	48.78	18.09
8	Baylor	109.48	52.80	55.51	12.09
9	Michigan St	109.37	53.54	50.69	15.42
10	Georgia	109.27	51.10	53.06	16.86
11	Kansas St	109.08	54.43	45.34	18.53
12	Auburn	109.08	52.36	50.97	16.36
13	Wisconsin	107.97	52.75	46.07	17.84
14	UCLA	107.97	56.41	45.30	12.51
15	Arizona	107.47	56.04	43.62	13.56
16	Missouri	107.36	55.10	38.33	20.13
17	Oklahoma	106.71	49.53	48.82	17.30
18	LSU	105.51	48.43	40.34	24.60
19	Georgia Tech	105.29	51.79	46.62	12.19
20	Southern Cal	102.96	48.15	43.17	15.88
21	Arizona St	101.75	49.20	44.99	9.29
22	Clemson	101.46	47.84	36.78	19.03
23	Boise St	101.42	50.30	47.14	4.47
24	Nebraska	101.31	47.17	46.15	10.41
25	Arkansas	100.04	40.84	43.17	20.76
26	Utah	99.96	47.97	38.74	13.13
27	Louisville	98.81	44.76	40.50	13.83
28	Texas A&M	98.57	42.48	46.60	10.94
29	West Virginia	98.26	42.56	42.89	13.73
30	Florida	97.90	40.87	41.27	17.26
31	Minnesota	97.75	44.16	38.30	14.37
32	Tennessee	96.95	40.00	40.66	16.95
33	Stanford	96.40	40.53	31.47	23.87
34	Notre Dame	95.28	41.52	43.50	7.39
35	Washington	94.07	39.99	35.87	14.55
36	Colorado St	93.84	42.45	37.93	7.82
37	Marshall	93.60	37.22	46.59	7.26
38	North Dakota St	93.56	41.24	32.13	14.93
39	Texas	92.84	38.22	31.60	18.70
40	Maryland	92.57	40.02	39.60	7.03
41	Duke	92.25	37.94	39.28	10.03
42	Iowa	91.74	37.22	36.07	13.15



43	Boston College	91.43	37.14	35.23	13.34
44	South Carolina	91.34	35.24	44.65	6.86
45	Miami FL	90.54	34.27	37.57	13.58
46	North Carolina St	90.36	38.17	37.66	6.53
47	Memphis	90.32	34.66	38.63	11.30
48	Louisiana Tech	90.25	34.21	41.53	8.97
49	Cincinnati	89.22	35.75	40.67	4.70
50	Utah St	88.81	36.96	30.40	11.94
51	Virginia Tech	88.43	32.91	30.90	17.24
52	Brigham Young	87.91	33.85	39.41	5.84
53	Rutgers	87.87	37.39	33.08	6.19
54	North Carolina	87.70	35.42	44.20	-2.10
55	Virginia	87.33	31.28	34.32	13.78
56	Oklahoma St	87.30	34.02	36.46	6.99
57	Northern Illinois	86.92	37.57	33.75	2.82
58	Illinois St	86.90	34.83	36.11	4.98
59	California	86.76	31.78	46.73	-0.90
60	Illinois	86.74	35.27	36.25	3.72
61	Kentucky	86.25	30.16	41.63	5.63
62	Central Florida	86.22	32.60	33.18	9.95
63	East Carolina	85.91	31.41	40.47	3.85
64	Penn State	85.76	30.57	27.75	17.60
65	Air Force	85.56	35.93	29.82	6.09
66	Michigan	85.42	30.29	29.68	15.29
67	Pittsburgh	85.21	28.24	40.61	7.23
68	Northwestern	85.05	30.38	32.03	11.87
69	Northern Iowa	84.57	30.03	34.79	8.49
70	Nevada	84.55	32.42	34.58	4.67
71	Toledo	83.56	31.63	36.71	1.37
72	South Dakota St	82.81	31.76	34.28	1.73
73	Jacksonville St	82.14	31.21	29.74	5.51
74	Navy	82.09	27.47	37.62	3.71
75	Western Kentucky	81.89	27.72	46.12	-5.70
76	Texas Tech	81.89	27.66	41.39	-0.87
77	Georgia Southern	81.31	25.82	37.09	5.05
78	Oregon St	81.13	27.36	34.06	5.07
79	Louisiana-Lafayette	79.84	27.91	31.65	3.32
80	Indiana St	79.49	28.17	28.11	5.55
81	San Diego St	79.45	26.18	25.66	11.23
82	Houston	79.29	24.06	30.92	9.09
83	Washington St	79.16	23.47	41.31	-0.62
84	Western Michigan	79.13	24.45	34.59	4.40
85	Rice	79.06	26.88	32.10	2.63



86	Indiana	78.86	24.85	34.64	2.99
87	UTEP	78.44	26.30	29.12	5.04
88	Fresno St	78.39	27.09	33.26	-0.53
89	Eastern Washington	78.08	27.39	40.76	-9.30
90	Coastal Carolina	77.50	26.50	31.89	-0.42
91	Arkansas St	77.37	20.91	37.97	2.53
92	Syracuse	77.14	21.69	26.04	12.57
93	Purdue	76.81	20.87	32.77	6.38
94	New Hampshire	76.79	26.65	31.24	-1.77
95	Chattanooga	76.74	21.95	32.92	4.24
96	Central Michigan	75.98	22.97	27.69	5.89
97	Iowa St	75.93	20.08	36.19	2.08
98	Alabama-Birmingham	75.74	19.30	35.84	3.24
99	Sam Houston St	75.42	24.11	31.17	-0.91
100	Colorado	75.37	19.24	37.32	0.93
101	Kansas	75.26	21.56	26.96	7.15
102	Villanova	75.11	22.93	32.90	-1.44
103	Temple	74.47	17.23	28.12	11.25
104	Middle Tennessee St	74.27	20.38	32.71	0.91
105	Vanderbilt	73.71	19.67	27.76	5.62
106	Liberty	73.22	23.54	28.42	-2.69
107	Bowling Green	73.01	20.77	31.30	-1.48
108	Wyoming	72.72	21.27	26.62	1.62
109	Samford	71.55	16.61	27.71	5.37
110	Youngstown St	71.47	19.14	26.15	2.53
111	Appalachian St	71.40	15.73	35.37	-1.16
112	South Alabama	71.34	17.55	23.54	7.47
113	Old Dominion	71.02	19.26	33.98	-6.64
114	Texas St-San Marcos	70.39	15.44	31.12	1.02
115	Southern Illinois	70.14	16.12	30.53	-0.16
116	New Mexico	70.09	17.95	31.64	-4.44
117	Idaho St	69.91	17.95	33.72	-6.96
118	Wake Forest	69.87	16.05	23.91	5.93
119	Montana	69.83	18.73	22.09	3.16
120	SE Louisiana	69.79	14.84	28.52	3.13
121	South Florida	69.13	15.91	21.85	6.38
122	Ohio U.	68.63	15.43	21.65	6.11
123	Western Illinois	68.58	15.42	27.38	0.27
124	Harvard	68.57	18.88	23.08	-1.23
125	Tulane	68.05	14.54	23.08	4.71
126	Ball St	67.68	12.76	28.43	1.40
127	Fordham	67.63	14.22	32.60	-5.33
128	Texas-San Antonio	67.37	13.61	20.47	7.16



129	Charleston Southern	66.93	16.25	22.74	-0.59
130	Stephen F. Austin	66.76	17.13	26.49	-6.23
131	James Madison	66.67	15.70	29.32	-6.90
132	Hawai'i	66.67	10.98	25.29	4.97
133	Richmond	66.31	15.45	25.38	-3.45
134	San José St	66.18	12.45	24.51	2.10
135	Montana St	65.96	14.70	30.76	-8.45
136	Missouri St	65.87	11.35	24.42	3.25
137	Florida Int'l	65.84	9.36	24.95	5.94
138	Louisiana-Monroe	65.67	9.38	23.20	7.25
139	Central Arkansas	65.57	12.31	32.48	-7.18
140	Presbyterian	65.47	19.74	11.03	1.64
141	Southern Miss	64.56	11.34	24.25	0.16
142	Florida Atlantic	64.43	9.01	27.04	0.92
143	Eastern Kentucky	64.09	13.73	24.07	-4.82
144	Western Carolina	63.35	11.14	25.55	-3.84
145	Army	62.88	9.86	30.11	-7.42
146	Akron	62.85	6.77	22.85	4.90
147	Buffalo	62.38	7.14	32.28	-6.33
148	Cal Poly SLO	62.31	10.19	26.17	-5.49
149	North Texas	62.20	6.46	29.20	-2.56
150	Northwestern St	61.90	9.86	27.12	-6.90
151	Eastern Illinois	61.82	6.02	27.92	-1.51
152	UNLV	61.71	10.39	26.56	-7.71
153	William & Mary	60.65	9.11	21.76	-3.42
154	Dartmouth	60.08	10.54	22.35	-7.81
155	Yale	60.00	10.00	28.59	15.22
156	Connecticut	59.87	5.49	20.20	2.22
157	Tennessee-Martin	59.81	7.86	22.34	-4.02
158	Bryant	59.75	9.04	17.44	-1.22
159	Tulsa	59.27	3.97	31.24	-7.79
160	Wofford	58.78	3.96	20.72	1.54
161	McNeese St	58.63	4.09	19.77	1.89
162	The Citadel	58.00	3.98	23.74	-3.47
163	Lamar	57.99	8.09	27.79	-14.40
164	Sacred Heart	57.89	8.34	17.23	-4.52
165	Massachusetts	57.79	0.66	29.81	-4.54
166	Kent St	57.01	1.71	19.40	2.17
167	Troy	56.98	3.06	22.70	-3.45
168	South Carolina St	56.76	7.76	16.90	-6.04
169	Bethune-Cookman	56.52	7.05	17.22	-5.76
170	Miami OH	56.45	-0.53	25.49	-1.58
171	Sacramento St	56.40	6.03	29.02	-16.19



172	Albany NY	55.75	4.22	20.22	-5.98
173	North Carolina A&T	55.62	3.30	16.86	-1.39
174	Bucknell	55.01	5.34	17.33	-6.80
175	South Dakota	54.03	1.04	21.85	-6.61
176	Northern Arizona	53.78	2.94	16.83	-5.39
177	Alcorn St	53.20	-0.54	25.04	-9.24
178	Maine	53.08	2.11	13.61	-2.53
179	Delaware	52.74	3.15	15.78	-7.28
180	SMU	52.45	0.86	16.31	-4.71
181	SE Missouri St	51.99	-0.81	23.61	-10.40
182	Southern Utah	51.68	-0.10	19.55	-8.27
183	Eastern Michigan	51.49	1.10	17.05	-8.27
184	Monmouth NJ	51.45	0.42	20.78	-10.97
185	Tennessee Tech	51.19	1.49	14.81	-7.43
186	New Mexico St	51.19	-4.28	25.74	-8.72
187	Wagner	50.66	0.19	13.04	-4.80
188	Southern U.	49.47	4.21	17.69	-19.14
189	North Carolina Central	49.09	-1.77	17.16	-9.57
190	Stony Brook	48.99	-5.75	12.76	1.20
191	Idaho	48.99	-9.12	27.88	-8.31
192	Tennessee St	48.50	-3.99	15.80	-6.00
193	Jacksonville FL	48.49	-0.92	14.43	-9.79
194	Lafayette	48.18	-4.65	16.20	-6.11
195	Furman	47.88	-5.61	15.27	-4.32
196	North Dakota	47.53	-2.36	11.01	-6.35
197	Georgia St	47.39	-7.65	25.43	-12.30
198	Morgan St	46.85	-4.43	19.78	-13.38
199	Weber St	46.39	-8.21	17.47	-5.90
200	Mercer	45.97	-10.90	20.56	-5.57
201	Duquesne	45.90	-7.95	14.36	-4.46
202	San Diego	45.53	1.05	11.01	-17.03
203	Grambling St	45.26	-2.93	17.18	-17.24
204	Portland St	44.97	-9.07	15.61	-6.16
205	Colgate	44.91	-8.05	14.77	-7.17
206	Gardner-Webb	44.69	-6.67	12.86	-8.14
207	Northern Colorado	44.54	-6.37	10.96	-7.09
208	UC-Davis	44.01	-9.25	21.08	-13.74
209	St Francis PA	43.87	-8.68	21.53	-15.49
210	UNC-Charlotte	43.65	-11.50	27.35	-17.16
211	Alabama St	43.45	-7.26	12.95	-10.33
212	Brown	42.34	-9.63	15.57	-11.78
213	Holy Cross	41.81	-12.05	12.54	-6.03
214	Towson	41.12	-9.36	10.75	-10.46



215	Drake	40.65	-7.09	5.97	-10.62
216	Murray St	40.05	-13.00	25.19	-21.49
217	Princeton	40.04	-10.30	16.59	-17.43
218	Lehigh	39.91	-13.48	20.35	-16.21
219	Dayton	39.85	-8.35	12.51	-17.05
220	Norfolk St	38.52	-13.32	1.60	-1.21
221	Prairie View A&M	38.08	-12.10	20.51	-23.24
222	Elon	38.05	-15.56	10.45	-7.50
223	Howard	37.61	-13.85	15.41	-16.39
224	VMI	36.40	-16.66	19.66	-19.00
225	Georgetown DC	35.25	-17.24	5.00	-6.22
226	Florida A&M	34.65	-17.61	8.62	-10.75
227	Hampton	34.48	-18.87	13.71	-14.15
228	Pennsylvania	34.21	-18.37	13.26	-15.22
229	Central Conn St	33.64	-20.35	10.42	-10.49
230	Rhode Island	33.62	-18.26	8.16	-11.76
231	Austin Peay	33.06	-14.75	6.73	-17.61
232	Nicholls St	29.37	-16.42	9.40	-26.70
233	Alabama A&M	29.17	-22.05	10.83	-19.25
234	Jackson St	28.85	-20.74	5.96	-17.38
235	Marist	28.52	-22.11	1.53	-11.47
236	Houston Baptist	26.89	-13.76	5.66	-33.60
237	Texas Southern	26.86	-22.72	3.88	-16.95
238	Campbell	24.74	-24.31	2.20	-17.93
239	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	23.84	-21.98	6.65	-28.52
240	Delaware St	23.52	-26.16	2.28	-17.97
241	Cornell	23.32	-28.59	6.88	-19.04
242	Robert Morris PA	23.24	-26.42	2.07	-18.04
243	Butler	21.35	-28.91	5.43	-21.97
244	Morehead St	20.00	-27.62	10.23	-32.31
245	Stetson	19.53	-28.75	3.55	-24.91
246	Savannah St	19.40	-27.69	4.70	-28.16
247	Columbia	18.90	-30.86	2.34	-21.77
248	Valparaiso	17.48	-33.32	2.17	-21.03
249	Mississippi Valley St	16.87	-31.13	0.67	-24.72
250	Davidson	2.53	-47.94	3.45	-35.32