

## RATINGS 10-22-16

Welcome back to By the Numbers! This is a rating system that uses wins, losses, points for, points against and schedule (and nothing else) to rank college football teams. A more thorough description of the system is in my new book *Sports Math* (now available!) and my website [www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html](http://www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html) . Last week was a good week for the ratings, picking 79% winners (for context, favorites won 68%) and 54% against the spread.

Halloween came early, or maybe it's an unraveling of the fabric of the space-time continuum. (Insert Doc Brown whoa here.) The Cubs in the World Series?! Against the Indians? That's the 1940s. SMU beats Houston; okay, we're solidly in the 1940s. Penn State beats Ohio State, putting us in the 1970s. Alabama beats Texas A&M; that rules out 1967 and 2012. Oregon loses its 5<sup>th</sup> straight, so we're in the 1990s. Texas Tech quarterback Patrick Mahomes throws for 734 yards, Tech puts up 59 points ... and loses. That's way back in the future, I guess. Nebraska remains unbeaten; lots of possible years but they all begin with a 1 and a 9. Chris Petersen and Boise State remain unbeaten; we're in the 2000s but, wait, I just described two different teams, since Petersen coaches at Washington now. Utah's Joe Williams came out of retirement to run for 332 yards against UCLA in a 52-45 win. Wait – retirement?

Last week's trivia question answer was Jerry LeVias. At halftime of its surprising domination of Houston, SMU honored the 1966 football team. I saw a brief clip of the players on the field, but did not see LeVias, who is understandably not filled with warm memories of his time in Jackie Robinson's shoes. (By the way, I have an old SMU yearbook from my parents' time there that reports on the 1940 football game against UCLA with a picture of Robinson after being tackled that is captioned "That decided Brunette, on the Bottom this time.. ." Curious.) At one point, I have read, SMU huddled with LeVias in the middle of the huddle to make it harder on rumored snipers in the crowd.

This week's trivia question is motivated by undefeated Boise State playing at Wyoming this week. Fifty years ago, undefeated Wyoming played at Utah State in a game it would lose, its only loss in a 10-1 season that included a 28-20 defeat of Florida State in the Sun Bowl. Utah State won 12-10 with its only touchdown being the result of a trick play, the "bounce pass." On fourth down at the Wyoming 35, QB Bob Wolfe threw backwards to wide receiver Larry Jackson, bouncing the ball. Jackson hollered at Wolfe about the "bad pass" then straightened and threw downfield to a wide open Tom Pack for a touchdown. Amazingly, the play had been called for third down, but Wolfe threw the ball straight to Jackson who had to do the best he could with a "screen pass" with no blockers. Wyoming was led by QB Rick Egloff, but its most famous player was a running back who played for a pro team that did *not* lose to a trick play. Name the running back and the nickname that connected him to Paul Newman.

Thursday night in Blacksburg, return to glory! The Hokies have another battle for first place this week against Pittsburgh. If the predicted score is close to correct, it should be great fun! Navy has a similar predicted score in a battle of AAC division leaders. Two years ago, UVa won a thriller at home against Louisville, and the largest win by either team ever is 7 points. Lamar Jackson and his Heisman campaign may change that. By the way, if you find it odd that Louisville and Virginia play every year, it's because they're rivals. Says the ACC. In the series, UVa put together a 2-game winning streak between 1989 and 2014. Louisville's win last year tied the series at 2-2. Confused? The ACC had designated Virginia and Maryland as rivals – reasonable, though UVa and Tech in different divisions would have made real rivals – and when the Twerps were replaced by the Cards the Hoos transferred all their hatred to Louisville. Says the ACC.

There are some real rivalry games this week. Florida and Georgia resume the World's Largest Cocktail Party (so the afternoon won't be a complete waste, as everyone gets wasted), Baylor and Texas play a backyard game that the Horns used to dominate, and Michigan and Michigan State play in the Salem-Took-My-Nickname Bowl. The ratings' prediction of 52-10 Michigan makes me wonder again which decade we're in. Miami and Notre Dame used to be the biggest hate match around. At the time, we thought it was Miami's bad boys against the Irish choir boys. After noticing that Lou Holtz's teams were always getting into ugly brawls, I no longer think that Miami was at fault.

Some games this week are important. Clemson and Florida State renew their rivalry. Washington takes its unbeaten record and playoff hopes to Utah where Joe Williams and the Utes will provide a tough test (unless Williams retires again – is this guy related to Ricky?). Unbeaten Nebraska goes to Wisconsin, which will be brutal unless the Badgers have finally worn out (at Michigan, then Ohio State, then at Iowa). Auburn, which suddenly looks tough and has even been mentioned as a possible playoff team, goes to Ole Miss, which has gone from being the best 3-2 team in the country to being the best 3-4 team in the country. And West Virginia goes on the road to Oklahoma State, where the Cowboys want to prove that it belongs in the Big 12 championship conversation.

Here are the predictions.

Virginia Tech 35, Pittsburgh 34

Louisville 50, Virginia 21

South Florida 36, Navy 35

Washington 30, Utah 24

Wisconsin 21, Nebraska 15

Auburn 38, Ole Miss 31

Florida 22, Georgia 10

West Virginia 35, Oklahoma State 21

Baylor 38, Texas 27

Miami 38, Notre Dame 24

Boise State 42, Wyoming 26

And the ratings:

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Michigan	151.1	91.3	60.1	26.4
2	Alabama	149.6	95.1	51.6	26.2
3	Clemson	142.9	89.4	47.2	21.4
4	Ohio State	141.5	81.2	52.0	24.1
5	Texas A&M	139.2	86.3	46.7	16.7
6	Louisville	137.8	76.2	61.4	12.0
7	Washington	137.7	79.4	50.8	18.1
8	West Virginia	137.6	84.1	39.7	22.8
9	Boise St	136.0	86.6	40.6	14.6
10	Auburn	135.9	75.6	46.7	22.7
11	Tennessee	134.0	83.5	46.7	7.4
12	Wisconsin	133.8	75.0	38.2	26.8
13	Colorado	133.3	75.1	43.4	20.2
14	Western Michigan	132.8	79.2	45.3	11.6
15	Washington St	132.7	76.7	46.2	13.9
16	Penn State	132.7	79.0	42.3	14.7
17	Florida St	132.5	77.7	43.3	14.9
18	Nebraska	131.6	79.1	36.3	17.8
19	LSU	130.9	69.4	39.4	25.9
20	Southern Cal	129.8	73.1	42.9	14.6
21	Virginia Tech	128.9	68.6	42.3	19.1
22	Florida	128.9	71.5	34.1	23.4
23	Utah	128.0	76.1	35.0	14.0
24	North Carolina	127.9	74.1	40.8	10.8
25	Oklahoma	127.3	69.3	51.3	5.0
26	Stanford	126.2	69.2	31.3	22.4
27	Houston	125.1	66.6	42.7	11.8
28	Navy	124.8	70.6	39.3	9.0
29	Mississippi	124.6	62.8	51.8	6.4
30	Baylor	124.5	63.0	45.0	12.7
31	Pittsburgh	124.1	68.6	46.2	3.0
32	North Dakota St	123.9	73.3	27.4	15.1
33	Minnesota	123.3	68.2	37.7	10.1
34	Arizona St	122.3	65.6	42.2	6.6
35	Toledo	122.1	65.9	42.4	5.7
36	Miami FL	122.1	60.1	41.0	14.7
37	Troy	122.1	66.0	36.8	10.8

38	South Florida	122.0	62.6	47.4	4.7
39	Arkansas	121.8	67.4	36.6	8.6
40	Brigham Young	121.7	62.8	38.6	12.5
41	Appalachian St	120.8	66.6	27.5	16.1
42	Temple	120.5	60.2	41.1	10.3
43	Georgia Tech	120.2	62.6	33.7	13.8
44	Iowa	119.9	60.4	34.9	14.9
45	Oklahoma St	119.8	58.5	44.7	7.3
46	Eastern Washington	119.6	64.5	51.1	-7.7
47	Tulsa	119.5	62.4	45.2	0.9
48	TCU	119.3	59.9	43.2	5.8
49	Memphis	119.3	57.4	42.2	10.2
50	UCLA	119.3	58.2	39.3	11.9
51	Kansas St	119.1	56.6	35.6	17.2
52	Wake Forest	118.9	62.6	30.0	14.4
53	California	118.8	61.3	49.6	-3.8
54	North Carolina St	117.8	56.9	34.9	14.1
55	Central Florida	117.7	56.7	39.4	9.7
56	San Diego St	117.5	60.8	30.9	12.3
57	Maryland	117.5	59.7	33.9	10.8
58	Northwestern	116.6	55.9	37.4	10.0
59	Georgia	116.5	60.2	31.2	10.4
60	Wyoming	115.6	61.0	39.1	-1.0
61	Kentucky	115.5	60.9	36.2	1.9
62	Indiana	115.1	55.2	36.4	8.2
63	South Dakota St	115.1	59.6	39.7	-0.9
64	Western Kentucky	114.6	53.4	43.6	2.2
65	The Citadel	114.4	66.0	23.8	4.8
66	Air Force	113.7	53.5	35.3	8.0
67	Chattanooga	113.4	61.1	28.2	4.5
68	Vanderbilt	113.4	55.5	28.2	11.8
69	Colorado St	113.0	56.0	32.2	6.1
70	Texas Tech	112.9	48.7	55.3	-7.5
71	Middle Tennessee St	112.4	52.9	38.4	2.7
72	Central Michigan	112.4	55.7	33.3	4.0
73	Oregon St	112.4	54.1	32.3	7.0
74	Youngstown St	112.3	54.4	27.6	11.1
75	Oregon	112.3	50.2	47.9	-3.6
76	SMU	112.0	52.2	31.5	9.5
77	Samford	111.8	58.8	34.9	-3.3
78	Syracuse	111.6	51.6	34.3	6.4
79	Akron	111.4	55.3	40.2	-5.0
80	Louisiana Tech	111.3	50.5	40.7	0.7
81	Utah St	110.4	50.9	30.7	8.1
82	New Mexico	110.4	53.2	39.4	-3.7

83	Jacksonville St	110.4	52.1	29.9	7.3
84	Arizona	110.4	49.5	35.8	4.8
85	Texas	109.9	43.9	40.0	6.6
86	Charleston Southern	109.5	55.4	34.2	-3.8
87	Sam Houston St	109.2	52.7	38.5	-5.4
88	Western Illinois	109.0	57.0	27.7	-0.6
89	Illinois	109.0	49.1	29.4	8.2
90	Duke	108.6	45.0	28.5	13.6
91	Cincinnati	108.5	49.4	27.4	8.5
92	South Carolina	108.3	48.4	23.4	13.4
93	Central Arkansas	108.2	50.3	27.3	6.7
94	Missouri	108.1	42.0	43.6	1.1
95	Mississippi St	107.7	42.1	38.0	5.7
96	Georgia Southern	107.7	50.3	29.8	2.8
97	Connecticut	107.2	47.0	26.8	9.0
98	Eastern Michigan	107.1	51.5	28.2	1.3
99	Cal Poly SLO	107.0	50.0	32.1	-0.7
100	Tulane	107.0	45.3	30.3	7.3
101	Hawai`i	106.3	48.1	34.0	-1.8
102	Southern Miss	106.3	46.1	38.1	-3.4
103	Idaho	105.9	52.4	28.8	-3.5
104	Arkansas St	104.9	46.0	26.9	4.6
105	Michigan St	104.7	39.9	33.2	5.8
106	Notre Dame	104.6	35.5	40.6	4.1
107	Richmond	104.6	48.9	27.9	-1.1
108	Rutgers	104.5	46.1	28.1	2.1
109	Virginia	104.4	42.8	31.4	3.2
110	James Madison	104.4	45.6	37.9	-7.1
111	Old Dominion	104.3	44.7	34.9	-3.2
112	Ohio U.	104.3	46.4	27.3	2.2
113	Montana	103.7	40.0	41.0	-4.6
114	Boston College	103.6	41.5	29.5	4.7
115	North Texas	103.6	42.8	30.4	1.9
116	South Alabama	103.5	43.3	27.4	4.3
117	Northern Iowa	103.5	36.5	27.0	13.6
118	Purdue	103.4	44.7	33.6	-4.1
119	East Carolina	103.2	39.1	35.3	1.1
120	North Dakota	103.0	47.7	24.4	0.1
121	South Dakota	102.6	47.0	33.4	-8.9
122	Coastal Carolina	102.2	41.9	32.0	-1.9
123	Army	102.2	34.1	31.8	8.7
124	Wofford	101.9	42.7	20.9	7.5
125	Liberty	101.8	40.4	31.1	0.0
126	Northern Illinois	101.4	38.2	33.0	0.1
127	Villanova	101.3	43.2	18.4	7.8

128	Georgia St	100.9	37.4	27.6	5.3
129	Stony Brook	100.8	46.4	14.3	6.3
130	Louisiana-Lafayette	100.7	42.6	25.4	0.1
131	UNLV	100.5	39.2	33.0	-3.5
132	Ball St	99.3	35.7	27.2	4.1
133	Northern Arizona	98.8	38.3	24.7	1.7
134	Lehigh	98.7	36.9	33.0	-4.9
135	Mercer	98.1	42.9	27.9	-9.2
136	Iowa St	98.0	29.4	31.9	4.5
137	Weber St	97.4	43.4	24.1	-7.8
138	Grambling St	97.3	38.5	23.8	-1.5
139	Kent St	97.0	33.6	24.1	4.1
140	North Carolina A&T	96.8	40.4	26.1	-7.4
141	Texas-San Antonio	96.3	33.2	26.5	0.7
142	Southern Utah	95.6	37.1	22.1	-2.0
143	Louisiana-Monroe	95.2	38.2	23.3	-5.7
144	Illinois St	94.5	31.5	20.9	3.9
145	Marshall	94.4	29.8	30.0	-3.3
146	Nevada	94.2	31.7	20.4	3.3
147	Miami OH	94.2	30.4	18.9	6.6
148	New Mexico St	94.0	37.5	26.1	-10.5
149	San José St	93.8	33.2	24.5	-3.8
150	Florida Int'l	93.3	32.9	22.9	-2.9
151	UNC-Charlotte	93.3	33.2	24.7	-5.2
152	Maine	93.3	35.6	17.2	-1.0
153	Missouri St	93.2	34.5	24.5	-6.8
154	Kennesaw St	93.0	34.6	28.7	-11.8
155	Eastern Illinois	93.0	33.1	26.5	-7.7
156	San Diego	92.8	29.9	25.2	-2.4
157	Kansas	92.8	27.7	23.8	1.7
158	Tennessee St	92.5	33.9	24.5	-7.8
159	Albany NY	92.4	31.2	21.7	-1.7
160	Lamar	92.4	32.0	19.8	-1.1
161	Indiana St	92.4	32.3	27.1	-8.7
162	Harvard	92.2	34.8	19.9	-5.3
163	Northern Colorado	91.7	33.4	20.8	-5.5
164	New Hampshire	91.7	32.5	17.5	-1.0
165	South Carolina St	91.5	36.9	13.9	-3.7
166	Bowling Green	91.5	31.7	28.0	-10.9
167	Fresno St	91.2	27.7	24.4	-2.8
168	Fordham	91.1	33.7	26.9	-13.6
169	Massachusetts	91.0	24.6	26.9	-1.7
170	Sacred Heart	90.9	34.3	21.8	-9.8
171	SE Louisiana	90.6	31.5	22.7	-7.5
172	Furman	89.9	25.5	23.4	-2.2

173	VMI	89.1	32.2	15.4	-5.0
174	Tennessee-Martin	89.0	25.3	25.6	-6.3
175	Princeton	88.8	26.7	23.1	-6.2
176	North Carolina Central	88.6	37.9	15.7	-14.1
177	UC-Davis	88.6	27.1	20.0	-4.0
178	Rice	88.3	21.2	26.2	-3.2
179	Duquesne	88.1	28.1	23.4	-10.2
180	Pennsylvania	87.8	25.6	20.9	-4.9
181	UTEP	87.7	26.9	20.8	-7.0
182	Texas St-San Marcos	87.5	29.8	23.7	-14.2
183	St Francis PA	87.2	23.5	13.9	3.3
184	Nicholls St	86.8	24.9	22.9	-8.7
185	Southern U.	86.6	26.9	28.1	-17.0
186	Monmouth NJ	86.5	28.3	17.9	-8.9
187	Portland St	85.9	24.1	24.6	-11.6
188	Southern Illinois	85.8	15.9	29.8	-5.9
189	Colgate	85.8	19.0	26.3	-6.6
190	Tennessee Tech	85.4	21.1	20.6	-4.9
191	Dayton	85.2	24.4	15.1	-4.1
192	Gardner-Webb	85.1	22.8	18.5	-5.6
193	McNeese St	84.3	19.3	20.0	-4.4
194	Florida Atlantic	84.3	16.3	25.1	-5.6
195	Western Carolina	83.4	21.2	20.0	-9.3
196	William & Mary	82.9	21.0	15.5	-5.8
197	Towson	82.6	17.8	23.8	-10.5
198	Prairie View A&M	82.6	26.0	20.7	-18.4
199	SE Missouri St	81.9	13.5	15.0	2.2
200	Montana St	81.2	15.9	15.2	-2.9
201	East Tennessee St	81.1	26.2	9.8	-11.4
202	Presbyterian	81.1	25.8	4.1	-5.4
203	Delaware	81.1	16.3	18.1	-6.7
204	Eastern Kentucky	80.8	13.5	21.8	-7.2
205	Dartmouth	80.6	17.4	10.1	-1.3
206	Idaho St	80.6	21.8	18.1	-15.2
207	Cornell NY	80.4	18.7	15.2	-8.7
208	Buffalo	79.7	13.7	18.2	-6.6
209	Murray St	79.3	11.4	21.3	-7.8
210	Stephen F. Austin	78.0	17.4	20.9	-18.7
211	Florida A&M	78.0	24.5	11.1	-18.4
212	Bucknell	77.0	12.5	10.4	-4.0
213	Holy Cross	77.0	13.8	20.3	-15.7
214	Alcorn St	76.7	19.3	15.1	-18.5
215	Northwestern St	76.5	9.2	21.1	-11.6
216	Georgetown DC	76.1	13.7	7.4	-4.9
217	McNeese*St	76.0	10.0	12.7	7.2

218	Elon	75.3	13.6	10.0	-9.3
219	Houston Baptist	75.2	16.6	10.8	-14.4
220	Drake	74.8	16.5	10.8	-15.3
221	Hampton	74.2	15.4	5.8	-10.2
222	Jackson St	73.3	15.0	6.9	-13.0
223	Columbia	73.2	9.5	10.5	-9.6
224	Sacramento St	73.1	11.4	11.3	-13.1
225	Jacksonville FL	72.9	13.0	17.8	-22.5
226	Bryant	71.7	3.7	22.9	-18.0
227	Rhode Island	71.5	9.7	12.2	-15.9
228	Austin Peay	71.4	6.0	19.6	-18.6
229	Robert Morris PA	71.2	4.2	7.9	-5.0
230	Bethune-Cookman	70.8	7.9	11.6	-14.7
231	Brown	70.3	6.2	10.1	-12.2
232	Marist	69.8	7.0	7.3	-11.7
233	Savannah St	69.5	15.4	-3.0	-13.1
234	Texas Southern	69.1	6.6	6.4	-11.8
235	Yale	68.9	5.2	14.3	-18.6
236	Howard	66.8	6.3	10.6	-21.3
237	Stetson	66.7	3.9	3.5	-11.3
238	Lafayette	66.2	-1.1	14.7	-17.3
239	Alabama St	65.7	1.7	8.1	-15.5
240	Alabama A&M	65.5	4.5	8.1	-19.9
241	Morgan St	64.6	6.2	1.9	-18.2
242	Central Conn St	62.5	-9.1	12.7	-13.8
243	Valparaiso	62.3	0.3	6.1	-20.2
244	Norfolk St	61.8	-2.9	3.1	-14.1
245	Morehead St	61.8	-1.6	15.4	-28.4
246	Butler	58.5	-9.5	7.8	-18.3
247	Campbell	57.6	-8.2	7.9	-22.3
248	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	56.8	-3.1	3.0	-26.4
249	Delaware St	56.6	-5.8	4.7	-25.0
250	Mississippi Valley St	53.3	-7.0	2.8	-29.7
251	Davidson	48.0	-22.5	3.7	-23.1