

## RATINGS 10-8-16

Welcome to the first 2016 edition of 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* (pre-order on Amazon before they're all gone!) and [www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html](http://www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html) on my website. In spite of the numerous factors missing from the system, it does well predicting games. Last year, it averaged 78% winners and 58% against the spread. This is, to be honest, better than usual, so don't go to Vegas quite yet. Numbers like this should be taken with due caution. My system has a tendency to pick underdogs for small point spreads and favorites for large spreads – it worked last year. I'll report on how the system is doing this year week by week.

As teams prepare for the third weekend in October, the big game is Alabama at Tennessee, known as ... wait for it ... Third Weekend in October. This year anything involving Tennessee has been highly entertaining. This is the Vols' last big game before entering the Gloria Vanderbilt part of its schedule. For consensus #1 Alabama, this is a tough stretch with road games at Arkansas and Tennessee followed by a home game against Texas A&M and then back to the road at LSU (if that's still tough – by the way, if you didn't see the ending of LSU at Auburn, you may not know how much one second and a referee's quick whistle can mean to a coach, with Les Miles fired after a game-winning pass was ruled to be after the clock hit 0). You will notice that Alabama is not #1 here; computer ratings pay attention to strength of schedule, which the Tide doesn't have yet. You may be surprised that the ratings only have Alabama a 1-point favorite, but this has an asterisk on it. My ratings are a combination of two different ratings, one using schedule and point differential and the other using schedule and won-lost record. The won-lost version loves Tennessee (rated above Alabama) and the points version has Alabama ahead by 15. The combination makes the prediction close, but as the season goes along the win version and the points version usually come together.

It's nice to have the Virginia teams playing well. I suspect that Virginia Tech's rating here is a function of an early season calculation oddity, but the Hokies have been impressive lately. North Carolina did not do well in a hurricane against Tech, we'll see how they do against the Hurricanes (Miami) this week.

I generally enjoy making fun of the Big 10, but saying that it's dumb for the Big 10 to have 14 teams overrates Rutgers. The battle among Ohio State, Michigan, and Wisconsin is great, though. The Wolverines won last week in a smash-mouth contest capped off with an all world interception. The Buckeyes travel to Camp Randall and hope to keep the Badgers from jumping around too much.

On October 15, 1966 – exactly fifty years ago! – Alabama won at Tennessee 11-10. Tennessee, led by the wonderfully named quarterback Dewey Warren, took a 10-0 lead into the fourth quarter, but Alabama pulled to 10-8 on a touchdown and 2-point conversion and then kicked the game winning 17-yard (!) field goal with 3:23 left. With 20 seconds left, Tennessee missed a 19-yard field goal. (By the way, Alabama had been preseason #1, but slipped to #2 during an opening bye week, then to #3 after lackluster wins over Ole Miss and Clemson. The narrow win over the Vols dropped them to #4. Despite Alabama going 11-0 with a thrashing of Nebraska in the Sugar Bowl, the polls split the national championship between Notre Dame and Michigan State.) Name the late, great Alabama quarterback who brought the Tide in.

After three top ten matchups last week, the games this week are not as high powered. On paper, Stanford and Notre Dame sounds like it should be good, but at 2-4 and 3-2 (and a 23 point spread in my ratings, though Vegas has the Irish as a 3-point favorite) maybe not. The Irish have struggled at 1-2 in the ACC, but this was against Duke, Syracuse, and NC State so ... oh, wait, this is football, not basketball. West Virginia is an unbeaten team flying under the radar – I think most have dismissed all Big 12 teams from playoff consideration. The biggest mismatch according to the points is Louisville over Duke – the predicted score of 58-16 may accurately give Louisville's total – at the half. Here are some predictions.

Virginia Tech 38, Syracuse 10

Pittsburgh 42, Virginia 27

Alabama 35, Tennessee 34

Miami 38, North Carolina 29

West Virginia 45, Texas Tech 28

Ohio State 20, Wisconsin 17

Stanford 38, Notre Dame 15

Southern Cal 35, Arizona 26

And here are the ratings:

		Overall	Win	Offense	Defense
1	Michigan	144.1	82.9	61.9	26.9
2	Alabama	136.4	78.7	52.0	23.4
3	Clemson	136.1	79.0	49.4	24.9
4	Texas A&M	135.9	84.3	51.5	15.1
5	Ohio State	135.7	74.2	54.4	25.2
6	Tennessee	131.4	80.8	49.9	10.0
7	West Virginia	129.7	78.1	40.8	18.4
8	Washington	129.2	69.6	50.4	19.1
9	Wisconsin	128.3	68.9	37.9	30.1
10	Virginia Tech	127.3	66.3	44.7	24.3
11	Louisville	127.1	61.5	64.5	10.4
12	Florida St	126.8	69.5	46.6	17.0
13	Mississippi	126.0	65.3	57.0	10.3
14	Auburn	124.0	61.2	44.4	23.2
15	Boise St	123.7	69.3	40.1	16.1
16	North Dakota St	122.6	73.6	34.4	13.2
17	Miami FL	122.3	59.6	49.6	15.9
18	Houston	122.2	61.9	47.9	14.3
19	Stanford	121.3	65.7	36.4	18.4
20	LSU	121.0	56.6	39.9	26.4
21	Washington St	120.5	59.2	47.5	14.0
22	Nebraska	120.4	64.4	38.8	15.6
23	Western Michigan	119.8	63.9	44.7	8.9
24	Colorado	118.7	55.9	43.9	17.5
25	Penn State	118.6	61.9	41.3	11.9
26	Navy	118.4	64.0	38.5	11.5
27	Southern Cal	117.9	60.2	39.5	14.2
28	Florida	117.7	58.9	33.4	21.6
29	Air Force	117.4	60.9	38.3	13.3
30	Kansas St	117.3	53.9	40.9	19.9
31	North Carolina	117.3	60.9	43.7	7.4
32	Arizona St	117.0	62.0	44.2	4.8
33	South Florida	116.9	56.8	47.0	8.8
34	Utah	116.6	62.1	31.7	16.1
35	UCLA	115.3	55.6	35.4	17.9
36	Oklahoma	114.6	52.6	48.9	6.8
37	Appalachian St	114.5	57.9	27.3	20.9
38	Arkansas	114.1	57.4	37.0	11.1
39	Pittsburgh	114.0	55.9	46.0	3.8
40	Brigham Young	113.8	53.9	40.6	11.3
41	Georgia	113.3	57.5	31.5	14.3
42	Central Florida	113.3	51.3	41.4	12.7
43	Memphis	113.3	48.2	47.2	10.8
44	North Carolina St	112.7	51.8	36.0	16.0
45	Wake Forest	112.7	56.9	31.5	13.5
46	Georgia Tech	112.3	50.6	33.7	18.9
47	Troy	111.8	51.2	36.9	13.5
48	Baylor	111.7	50.0	44.0	7.8
49	Chattanooga	111.4	59.6	31.6	6.6

50	Maryland	111.0	52.8	35.3	11.0
51	Iowa	110.9	50.7	32.0	16.8
52	Eastern Washington	110.9	55.4	51.7	-9.1
53	Toledo	110.6	47.8	45.0	6.8
54	Indiana	109.7	50.3	37.2	9.0
55	Oklahoma St	108.7	46.0	40.5	9.3
56	Tulsa	108.7	51.9	41.6	0.0
57	Texas Tech	108.5	41.8	59.7	-5.0
58	Minnesota	108.4	49.4	34.2	10.3
59	Jacksonville St	107.8	46.9	37.9	8.3
60	TCU	107.7	44.5	44.0	5.1
61	San Diego St	107.2	50.8	32.5	6.9
62	Charleston Southern	106.9	52.9	36.1	-0.3
63	California	106.7	47.3	47.0	-4.1
64	Wyoming	106.6	50.7	36.1	2.0
65	Samford	106.3	54.7	34.7	-2.8
66	Sam Houston St	105.5	48.2	48.0	-9.5
67	Youngstown St	104.7	47.0	28.6	9.8
68	Akron	104.7	46.0	47.6	-7.8
69	Arizona	104.5	42.8	38.7	4.7
70	Tulane	104.4	43.2	32.8	9.7
71	Missouri	104.4	37.7	43.6	6.3
72	Northwestern	104.1	41.2	31.6	12.8
73	South Carolina	103.7	42.0	21.3	21.0
74	Mississippi St	103.7	38.1	42.1	5.4
75	Kentucky	103.6	45.7	34.1	3.1
76	Central Michigan	102.9	45.1	35.0	1.3
77	The Citadel	102.6	52.0	20.9	5.5
78	Oregon	102.3	38.8	46.5	-3.2
79	Temple	102.1	35.9	38.5	8.2
80	East Carolina	101.7	37.8	40.0	3.2
81	Boston College	101.7	40.0	35.2	4.9
82	Old Dominion	101.6	41.0	39.8	-1.1
83	Michigan St	100.6	36.8	31.2	10.4
84	Colorado St	100.4	41.6	31.2	3.6
85	Wofford	100.4	42.4	22.2	11.5
86	Oregon St	100.3	40.6	32.4	3.4
87	Coastal Carolina	100.2	36.8	42.4	-2.0
88	Middle Tennessee St	100.0	40.4	32.4	2.9
89	Connecticut	99.9	40.3	26.3	9.0
90	South Alabama	99.5	39.9	28.0	6.7
91	Utah St	99.0	36.7	30.8	6.8
92	Louisiana Tech	98.8	34.4	39.1	1.2
93	Georgia Southern	98.6	37.1	32.2	4.0
94	Vanderbilt	98.6	34.4	30.3	9.7
95	Central Arkansas	98.3	41.2	30.0	0.1
96	Ohio U.	98.3	40.0	31.3	0.3
97	Rutgers	97.7	41.4	27.5	0.8
98	Duke	97.5	34.3	28.2	8.8
99	Cincinnati	97.0	35.6	27.9	6.3



100	Texas	97.0	30.0	43.3	-1.6
101	Montana	96.8	35.4	40.6	-6.6
102	Western Illinois	96.8	43.8	22.6	0.1
103	Hawai'i	96.7	38.2	31.6	-1.6
104	Southern Miss	96.4	33.1	40.7	-4.7
105	Western Kentucky	96.0	28.6	41.1	0.1
106	South Dakota St	95.9	33.5	40.9	-6.7
107	Villanova	95.3	36.2	20.7	8.6
108	Virginia	95.3	33.6	29.9	2.8
109	Georgia St	95.3	32.1	30.8	3.8
110	Kent St	95.3	34.8	26.6	4.4
111	Eastern Michigan	95.2	38.0	27.4	-0.8
112	Syracuse	95.0	31.6	31.4	3.1
113	Notre Dame	94.7	25.2	40.1	2.3
114	Missouri St	94.3	36.4	21.6	4.9
115	Cal Poly SLO	94.3	33.2	31.1	-0.4
116	Ball St	94.3	30.1	27.4	7.4
117	Richmond	94.0	39.5	27.0	-5.6
118	James Madison	93.8	30.1	37.8	-4.2
119	Army	93.7	24.9	31.4	8.8
120	Idaho	93.1	36.8	26.4	-3.4
121	Grambling St	93.0	37.3	21.7	0.4
122	Purdue	92.9	35.6	27.9	-4.0
123	North Carolina A&T	92.6	37.0	28.0	-6.8
124	Texas-San Antonio	92.3	28.4	26.4	5.7
125	Northern Illinois	92.0	29.4	32.8	-2.8
126	Mercer	92.0	34.8	31.9	-9.2
127	Harvard	91.8	37.9	24.4	-6.3
128	SMU	91.7	27.8	26.3	5.1
129	Louisiana-Lafayette	91.7	30.5	31.6	-3.7
130	Southern Utah	90.8	33.3	18.1	3.7
131	New Mexico	90.7	29.3	31.0	-4.1
132	Kennesaw St	90.6	35.0	28.8	-9.8
133	Arkansas St	90.4	26.8	27.0	2.5
134	Stony Brook	90.1	34.4	14.2	4.4
135	Northern Iowa	89.9	22.4	19.2	15.0
136	Illinois	89.9	26.2	27.0	2.0
137	Lehigh	89.5	28.5	33.9	-8.8
138	UNLV	89.1	25.3	31.1	-2.8
139	Liberty	88.7	21.9	30.8	0.9
140	Albany NY	88.6	31.0	19.9	-0.5
141	Iowa St	88.1	18.1	34.4	0.9
142	Lamar	87.9	25.9	18.1	6.3
143	North Dakota	87.8	27.5	21.4	0.8
144	Texas St-San Marcos	87.7	32.8	28.1	-13.5
145	Nevada	87.5	26.8	20.4	1.7
146	Massachusetts	87.3	20.8	24.5	5.3
147	South Carolina St	87.0	29.3	24.5	-6.8
148	Northern Colorado	86.7	28.5	22.0	-4.1
149	Monmouth NJ	86.7	31.6	16.5	-2.8

150	VMI	86.2	29.5	16.0	-0.5
151	North Texas	86.2	22.9	27.4	-3.3
152	Illinois St	86.1	22.5	19.4	4.9
153	Marshall	86.0	19.8	32.0	-4.3
154	Florida Int'l	85.8	23.6	25.6	-3.4
155	Louisiana-Monroe	85.7	22.3	25.5	-1.7
156	Kansas	85.2	17.3	23.3	5.8
157	Duquesne	85.2	28.3	25.4	-11.0
158	New Mexico St	85.0	27.1	29.0	-13.4
159	Eastern Illinois	84.8	25.5	26.6	-9.4
160	Cornell NY	84.7	30.4	16.2	-5.7
161	South Dakota	84.7	23.6	36.4	-16.8
162	Fordham	84.5	23.6	34.0	-15.1
163	Florida Atlantic	83.8	17.3	28.8	-3.3
164	East Tennessee St	83.7	31.0	13.0	-6.0
165	Princeton	83.3	21.9	26.6	-8.2
166	Bowling Green	83.1	24.7	24.9	-10.8
167	Tennessee St	82.5	24.0	21.6	-8.2
168	Indiana St	82.4	22.1	32.4	-16.7
169	Sacred Heart	81.7	22.1	26.6	-12.6
170	Northern Arizona	81.1	18.6	18.8	-1.5
171	Furman	81.0	15.8	22.2	-1.6
172	Prairie View A&M	80.7	28.6	17.7	-14.9
173	Maine	80.5	15.1	19.6	0.8
174	Fresno St	80.5	15.3	24.7	-4.7
175	UNC-Charlotte	80.4	17.8	24.7	-8.3
176	Nicholls St	80.3	13.0	31.1	-8.4
177	San José St	80.2	15.3	26.8	-7.6
178	New Hampshire	80.1	22.3	12.5	-2.8
179	Southern Illinois	79.9	9.4	35.0	-8.5
180	Weber St	79.9	21.6	14.8	-4.7
181	Towson	79.8	17.2	27.8	-11.8
182	Western Carolina	79.7	18.4	24.6	-10.7
183	Tennessee-Martin	79.6	14.0	26.8	-7.3
184	San Diego	79.4	12.6	23.5	-2.7
185	Gardner-Webb	79.3	18.9	18.3	-6.1
186	Southern U.	78.6	13.8	34.5	-17.3
187	Tennessee Tech	78.2	12.4	20.1	-1.9
188	SE Louisiana	77.9	16.8	24.9	-13.5
189	Delaware	77.7	10.2	23.3	-3.5
190	Buffalo	77.1	13.5	19.1	-5.1
191	North Carolina Central	77.1	24.3	17.6	-18.0
192	Miami OH	76.2	5.1	14.1	8.7
193	McNeese*St	76.0	10.0	16.7	15.9
194	SE Missouri St	75.9	8.0	12.6	5.8
195	Portland St	75.7	12.2	23.9	-11.6
196	Dayton	75.7	13.1	16.1	-5.2
197	Colgate	75.5	8.8	25.4	-9.3
198	Stephen F. Austin	74.9	11.5	20.5	-9.2
199	St Francis PA	74.0	8.8	13.9	-1.5

200	McNeese St	73.9	2.9	19.3	0.8
201	Eastern Kentucky	73.7	6.5	26.6	-11.8
202	UC-Davis	73.7	10.0	21.3	-11.2
203	UTEP	73.3	8.8	13.5	-2.8
204	Rice	72.8	1.9	21.9	-3.3
205	Bucknell	72.3	10.6	10.4	-4.7
206	William & Mary	72.1	8.0	16.6	-7.9
207	Houston Baptist	71.9	17.3	8.1	-12.1
208	Pennsylvania	71.8	8.1	16.1	-8.3
209	Idaho St	71.5	11.1	17.8	-14.7
210	Georgetown DC	71.3	10.6	9.9	-6.5
211	Dartmouth	70.9	8.9	11.0	-6.4
212	Northwestern St	70.4	6.0	11.8	-4.7
213	Hampton	70.1	9.2	7.2	-5.0
214	Presbyterian	69.1	11.6	4.3	-7.6
215	Florida A&M	68.8	12.6	7.0	-12.6
216	Texas Southern	68.6	11.0	10.7	-14.5
217	Alcorn St	68.3	9.7	16.7	-19.6
218	Murray St	67.7	-4.1	19.8	-5.9
219	Jacksonville FL	66.2	5.7	16.1	-18.9
220	Drake	66.1	6.8	11.9	-16.7
221	Elon	65.5	2.6	9.5	-10.0
222	Holy Cross	65.2	1.0	21.9	-21.0
223	Montana St	65.2	-6.9	15.1	-3.7
224	Yale	64.6	4.1	12.9	-17.9
225	Jackson St	64.3	8.0	7.5	-18.3
226	Columbia	64.2	-2.2	12.7	-10.2
227	Rhode Island	62.3	2.2	11.6	-19.5
228	Sacramento St	61.5	-4.3	13.0	-14.3
229	Savannah St	60.9	2.8	1.0	-13.2
230	Stetson	60.8	-3.0	2.9	-7.6
231	Lafayette	60.8	-9.3	13.7	-10.3
232	Robert Morris PA	60.5	-7.3	6.8	-6.7
233	Howard	60.0	1.6	14.9	-28.0
234	Marist	59.1	-6.2	4.2	-8.9
235	Alabama St	58.6	-5.8	5.7	-12.4
236	Austin Peay	57.5	-10.2	19.2	-22.7
237	Morgan St	57.4	2.7	-1.7	-19.1
238	Morehead St	56.9	-5.0	11.5	-23.5
239	Brown	56.7	-11.5	10.1	-13.8
240	Alabama A&M	56.0	-4.5	7.8	-22.7
241	Bethune-Cookman	55.6	-11.5	6.3	-12.9
242	Norfolk St	55.0	-7.9	0.6	-13.4
243	Bryant	54.6	-22.9	23.7	-17.3
244	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	53.0	-6.0	6.9	-27.1
245	Delaware St	51.4	-11.7	8.8	-25.4
246	Valparaiso	50.6	-14.4	4.9	-19.9
247	Campbell	48.7	-17.3	5.6	-21.8
248	Mississippi Valley St	48.0	-10.6	-1.0	-25.7
249	Central Conn St	46.2	-28.5	8.0	-15.4

250	Butler	44.9	-27.2	8.2	-20.6
251	Davidson	41.4	-28.6	6.8	-26.0

