

## RATINGS 11-12-16

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 (redesigned!) website [www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html](http://www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html). In a tough week, the ratings picked 71% winners and were 49% against the spread.

In a week in which reality trumped logic, the college football world was rocked with upsets. The conventional wisdom is that with all the changes not much will change. Clemson and Michigan and probably Washington can still play their way in. Oddly, the team most hurt by the Michigan loss seems to be Ohio State. The Buckeyes have essentially zero chance of winning the Big 10 now, unless Penn State loses to Rutgers or Michigan State (a combined 1-13 in the conference). Impressive Ohio State wins could force the committee to put two Big 10 teams in the playoffs. Meanwhile, West Virginia and Oklahoma are closer to making the case that the Big 12 deserves a spot. Sooners and Mountaineers play a big game on Saturday. So, I'm doing the same thing that I had planned a rant on for the national media. We no longer talk much about finishing strong to secure a nice bowl game, it's all about the playoffs. I doubt that the players feel that way much; for example, I'm betting that Auburn gets up for the Iron Bowl even though they have no shot at the playoffs. Somehow it seems less, well, collegiate to have all of this focus on the top four. Good seasons are all most teams have a shot at, and it shouldn't be a bad result.

I've been planning a "clever" comment about LSU kicker Colby Delahoussaye for a while. Since I focused on LSU-Bama last week I should have used it then (but I forgot). I was glad I hadn't when I saw the Game Day piece on Delahoussaye, who was a passenger in the car crash that killed Nebraska punter Sam Foltz. Driving was Mike Sadler, an All Big 10 punter and four-time academic All-American. Sadler would have gone to Stanford Law School this year, but he also died in the crash. For LSU's Senior Day, Delahoussaye has invited Sadler's mom to escort him with his parents. The day would have been her son's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. Delahoussaye suffered minor injuries in the crash, but distinctly remembers Sadler's mom visiting him and greeting him with a big hug and a sincere "I'm so happy to see you." That's impressive.

50 years ago Saturday we had a Game of the Century (GotC's also occurred in 1969 and 1971 and ...) between Michigan State and Notre Dame, number 1 versus number 2. This week, the Spartans host Ohio State and the Irish host Virginia Tech; neither game is being called anything grand. In 1966, Notre Dame ran out the clock in the final two minutes of a 10-10 tie, a ploy which kept both teams undefeated and won each one of the national championships awarded that season. It was a different era: neither team went to a bowl game – Notre Dame because they didn't do that, and Michigan State because they had been to the Rose Bowl the

previous year and the Big 10 didn't allow them to go anywhere. The biggest defensive star of that game played for the Spartans before a Hall of Fame career with the Colts and excellent Miller Lite commercials. Name the player and, for extra credit, the ND QB he's chasing in the background, and the catch phrase of the Miller Lite commercials.

Earlier in the year, it looked like Thursday night's Louisville-Houston game might be huge! It now looks like a great game, but Louisville needs some help to get in the top four. Nonetheless, both teams are in line for New Year's Day bowls and great seasons, so this should be a good one. If you haven't seen Lamar Jackson yet, do so – there are good reasons he's a unanimous Heisman pick right now. Washington State and Colorado is another good game with big bowl implications. The Cougars have quietly become an outstanding team (hard to believe Mike Leach is flying under the radar). Stanford and Cal and USC and UCLA renew rivalries, and Duke and Pittsburgh get together to talk about their big wins last week. The SEC does its traditional pound-an-FCS-team weekend-before-Rivalry-Week. North Carolina apparently tried to schedule that, but screwed up by scheduling The Citadel, which is 10-0 and beat South Carolina last year. The one good SEC game is the rescheduled Florida at LSU, which could have SEC East title implications. It should be a good week of games!

Here are the predictions.

Virginia Tech 31, Notre Dame 21

Georgia Tech 38, Virginia 16

Louisville 42, Houston 34

West Virginia 35, Oklahoma 30

North Carolina 42, Citadel 26

LSU 21, Florida 10

Southern Cal 31, UCLA 20

		<b>Overall</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Offense</b>	<b>Defense</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Alabama</b>	<b>150.0</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>28.6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Ohio State</b>	<b>145.8</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>25.9</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>143.6</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>24.9</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Clemson</b>	<b>138.9</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>19.1</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Louisville</b>	<b>136.4</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>12.9</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Washington</b>	<b>136.3</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>18.6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>135.8</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>25.5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Penn State</b>	<b>134.5</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Washington St</b>	<b>134.4</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>15.2</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Auburn</b>	<b>133.4</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>22.1</b>

11	Southern Cal	133.3	78.1	42.0	19.4
12	LSU	133.2	74.8	38.7	26.7
13	Colorado	132.9	75.4	43.2	20.6
14	Florida St	131.3	76.1	44.5	14.6
15	West Virginia	130.6	76.6	39.3	17.3
16	Texas A&M	130.4	73.7	44.2	15.7
17	Boise St	129.8	77.5	41.0	12.5
18	Oklahoma	129.5	71.9	51.2	8.8
19	Stanford	129.5	74.1	34.5	22.5
20	Western Michigan	129.1	74.6	45.9	9.6
21	Tennessee	129.0	75.7	46.5	7.3
22	Nebraska	128.6	76.3	35.9	16.0
23	Utah	128.3	75.1	38.1	14.7
24	North Carolina	126.8	71.5	42.6	11.4
25	Mississippi	126.7	68.6	50.1	7.4
26	Virginia Tech	126.4	69.2	40.1	15.8
27	Florida	125.9	70.6	32.7	20.3
28	Oklahoma St	124.9	68.3	45.7	7.6
29	South Florida	124.7	69.0	50.0	1.9
30	Houston	124.5	67.8	41.8	11.1
31	North Dakota St	124.0	73.7	30.5	13.6
32	Navy	123.7	70.2	39.8	8.0
33	Pittsburgh	123.4	67.5	48.4	2.3
34	Iowa	123.2	66.1	34.6	17.5
35	Arkansas	122.1	67.6	38.9	8.6
36	Miami FL	122.1	60.9	40.8	15.6
37	Tulsa	122.1	64.9	47.8	3.1
38	Brigham Young	122.0	64.5	36.7	14.6
39	San Diego St	121.9	64.7	36.6	14.2
40	Minnesota	121.8	66.5	37.8	10.3
41	Troy	121.7	67.2	38.6	8.2
42	Temple	121.1	63.2	38.7	12.1
43	Georgia Tech	120.5	64.8	36.9	10.4
44	Northwestern	120.3	59.5	38.3	15.5
45	Georgia	120.3	66.0	32.2	12.8
46	Eastern Washington	120.0	65.6	45.4	-0.6
47	Toledo	119.7	63.4	40.4	6.4
48	TCU	119.1	58.3	42.6	9.6
49	UCLA	118.6	57.6	38.3	13.7
50	Kansas St	118.6	58.1	37.2	14.1
51	Memphis	118.1	57.4	42.8	8.3
52	Appalachian St	118.0	62.7	29.3	14.3
53	Western Kentucky	117.6	57.1	44.2	5.8
54	Arizona St	117.3	60.0	41.8	3.6
55	Indiana	117.0	60.2	38.3	6.2

56	Central Florida	116.5	55.7	38.1	11.1
57	Texas	116.2	54.8	41.0	8.7
58	North Carolina St	116.2	56.1	34.3	13.7
59	Wyoming	116.0	61.1	42.7	-2.0
60	Mississippi St	115.7	57.1	40.6	4.8
61	Baylor	115.5	54.6	41.0	7.3
62	The Citadel	115.3	68.0	26.7	3.1
63	Kentucky	115.0	59.4	37.2	3.5
64	Air Force	115.0	58.0	37.2	5.1
65	California	114.8	57.5	47.2	-4.5
66	Wake Forest	114.7	57.5	28.4	13.9
67	South Carolina	113.8	56.8	25.6	15.5
68	Louisiana Tech	113.2	52.7	44.4	0.7
69	Maryland	113.1	55.7	33.8	6.7
70	Notre Dame	112.7	47.5	41.5	9.0
71	New Mexico	112.4	58.1	36.2	-0.4
72	Oregon	112.2	51.6	48.2	-4.1
73	Texas Tech	112.1	48.4	51.3	-3.3
74	Duke	112.0	50.2	33.5	11.8
75	Colorado St	111.7	52.8	33.9	7.1
76	South Dakota St	111.1	56.3	36.7	-1.7
77	James Madison	110.3	53.5	40.5	-3.8
78	SMU	110.2	52.5	33.1	4.6
79	Vanderbilt	110.0	50.3	27.5	12.8
80	Jacksonville St	109.9	54.3	28.2	6.5
81	Youngstown St	109.7	54.6	22.3	11.5
82	Michigan St	109.7	45.2	36.8	9.5
83	Oregon St	109.6	48.1	34.7	7.4
84	Ohio U.	109.5	54.1	28.9	4.9
85	Old Dominion	109.3	52.5	35.3	0.3
86	Arkansas St	109.0	52.0	29.9	5.4
87	Chattanooga	108.8	55.0	29.0	1.9
88	Syracuse	108.8	51.3	33.1	2.8
89	Idaho	108.6	56.1	28.0	1.0
90	Samford	108.6	55.2	33.8	-3.6
91	Wofford	108.2	54.5	24.7	5.3
92	Central Arkansas	107.3	50.9	26.8	6.0
93	Northern Iowa	107.3	45.2	29.4	10.8
94	Arizona	107.1	48.1	35.8	0.2
95	Illinois	106.4	47.9	29.4	5.0
96	Boston College	106.3	48.3	27.2	6.4
97	Sam Houston St	105.9	47.0	42.7	-8.3
98	Missouri	105.8	42.4	39.2	1.1
99	North Dakota	105.5	52.3	24.5	1.7
100	Cincinnati	105.5	46.3	24.6	9.6

101	Central Michigan	105.3	46.4	31.6	2.1
102	Utah St	105.3	44.9	29.7	5.8
103	Eastern Michigan	105.2	49.7	29.8	-0.8
104	Western Illinois	104.5	49.9	28.7	-1.8
105	Charleston Southern	104.1	47.6	33.3	-4.2
106	Georgia Southern	104.0	44.8	28.6	3.8
107	East Carolina	103.9	41.8	35.6	0.8
108	Middle Tennessee St	103.8	44.6	35.0	-2.7
109	South Alabama	103.7	44.9	26.8	4.7
110	Tulane	103.3	41.2	29.3	6.3
111	Virginia	103.0	39.2	31.4	6.1
112	Illinois St	102.8	44.2	24.5	5.9
113	Northern Illinois	102.7	40.3	32.0	3.3
114	Army	102.7	39.1	28.9	7.9
115	Richmond	102.5	46.6	29.4	-3.1
116	Southern Miss	102.4	42.6	34.3	-2.9
117	Iowa St	102.2	36.7	33.0	5.7
118	Connecticut	102.1	42.5	22.4	8.5
119	Hawai`i	102.1	45.7	29.8	-3.2
120	Miami OH	102.1	43.0	23.8	6.4
121	Coastal Carolina	101.9	44.1	31.3	-3.3
122	Akron	101.5	43.8	33.8	-6.3
123	Villanova	101.5	44.9	16.8	9.3
124	Kent St	101.4	41.1	25.6	5.2
125	Purdue	100.9	42.6	33.9	-6.1
126	Montana	100.5	38.7	35.8	-3.8
127	Cal Poly SLO	100.4	42.9	29.6	-3.6
128	Louisiana-Lafayette	100.3	42.6	24.8	1.3
129	Rutgers	100.2	41.6	27.1	0.2
130	UNLV	100.2	39.6	36.2	-6.2
131	Texas-San Antonio	100.0	39.5	29.5	-0.1
132	Lehigh	99.0	40.0	33.8	-7.4
133	Northern Arizona	98.8	39.5	26.7	-0.2
134	Kennesaw St	98.6	42.0	32.7	-10.0
135	Louisiana-Monroe	98.5	44.0	28.0	-8.3
136	San José St	98.4	39.6	26.6	-1.1
137	North Carolina A&T	98.2	44.8	25.1	-7.2
138	South Dakota	98.2	39.8	31.8	-7.2
139	Liberty	98.1	40.0	25.8	-1.7
140	Ball St	97.0	35.0	28.4	-0.2
141	North Texas	96.5	36.2	25.3	-0.1
142	Southern Utah	96.3	38.0	24.8	-2.5
143	Mercer	96.0	40.6	23.5	-5.4
144	Georgia St	95.9	32.7	23.6	4.7
145	Weber St	95.4	39.4	21.9	-3.6

146	Maine	95.2	40.6	20.4	-4.2
147	Northern Colorado	95.1	38.1	23.3	-4.0
148	Nevada	94.5	33.3	22.3	1.9
149	Massachusetts	94.3	30.9	30.0	-3.2
150	Furman	94.0	32.0	25.4	-0.8
151	UNC-Charlotte	93.9	34.5	25.2	-4.2
152	Marshall	93.7	30.5	27.0	-1.1
153	Grambling St	93.7	33.6	24.0	-2.3
154	Bowling Green	93.6	35.5	27.6	-8.8
155	Princeton	93.5	32.3	23.6	-0.5
156	New Mexico St	93.5	36.9	27.4	-10.5
157	Tennessee-Martin	93.4	32.9	24.4	-2.6
158	Florida Int'l	93.0	32.6	23.9	-2.6
159	Kansas	92.9	30.1	24.9	-0.5
160	New Hampshire	92.5	34.0	20.9	-2.7
161	Albany NY	92.4	33.6	21.0	-2.5
162	Missouri St	92.1	35.4	22.3	-7.0
163	Indiana St	91.7	32.1	26.1	-7.6
164	Fordham	91.0	33.3	28.0	-12.7
165	Stony Brook	90.9	33.8	13.6	0.7
166	Eastern Illinois	90.7	32.4	23.8	-7.9
167	Fresno St	90.6	27.5	22.4	-0.3
168	Nicholls St	90.4	28.9	24.5	-4.7
169	Southern Illinois	90.4	25.6	28.9	-4.9
170	San Diego	89.9	27.9	22.1	-2.2
171	Duquesne	89.7	32.2	23.3	-9.7
172	Gardner-Webb	89.1	28.6	17.5	-0.7
173	UTEP	88.9	27.9	22.4	-5.0
174	Florida Atlantic	88.9	26.5	24.8	-5.7
175	Tennessee Tech	88.7	29.0	20.2	-4.8
176	Harvard	88.1	31.5	18.1	-7.7
177	St Francis PA	88.0	27.1	15.7	0.4
178	SE Louisiana	88.0	29.9	21.8	-9.3
179	Pennsylvania	87.7	28.9	16.3	-3.3
180	Southern U.	87.5	32.3	24.4	-16.4
181	Texas St-San Marcos	87.4	31.0	22.7	-13.3
182	North Carolina Central	87.2	37.0	13.8	-12.8
183	Delaware	86.5	25.0	17.8	-2.6
184	Rice	85.9	22.8	23.3	-6.7
185	Buffalo	85.7	23.2	20.6	-5.1
186	Murray St	85.5	23.4	23.0	-8.2
187	Colgate	85.3	21.2	20.6	-3.3
188	Western Carolina	84.7	24.7	22.0	-11.0
189	Tennessee St	84.3	25.1	22.3	-12.7
190	William & Mary	84.2	24.2	16.6	-6.1

191	Montana St	84.2	20.8	18.3	-3.3
192	VMI	83.9	23.6	16.3	-5.8
193	SE Missouri St	83.6	18.3	14.5	2.3
194	Portland St	83.6	20.3	29.1	-15.1
195	Dayton	83.4	24.2	16.4	-7.9
196	McNeese St	83.4	18.4	22.9	-6.8
197	Lamar	83.3	22.0	15.3	-4.2
198	Towson	82.9	20.7	19.5	-7.6
199	Monmouth NJ	82.6	24.6	15.9	-9.9
200	East Tennessee St	82.0	27.6	9.4	-8.9
201	UC-Davis	82.0	18.6	19.0	-6.6
202	South Carolina St	81.0	22.3	11.6	-6.4
203	Prairie View A&M	80.7	25.5	18.0	-18.0
204	Idaho St	80.4	20.5	20.6	-14.7
205	Houston Baptist	78.5	21.7	11.7	-12.2
206	Eastern Kentucky	78.4	12.7	20.4	-9.1
207	Hampton	78.2	23.6	8.4	-12.3
208	Sacred Heart	78.1	17.1	16.5	-11.8
209	Bucknell	77.4	14.1	11.0	-3.9
210	Sacramento St	77.4	16.7	17.8	-14.3
211	Dartmouth	77.2	14.6	9.6	-3.7
212	Presbyterian	76.6	19.3	4.6	-6.7
213	Florida A&M	76.3	23.8	9.1	-18.0
214	Bryant	76.0	10.8	20.8	-12.8
215	Wagner	76.0	10.0	14.0	8.9
216	Stephen F. Austin	75.6	13.6	19.6	-16.6
217	Drake	75.1	18.4	10.2	-14.8
218	Cornell NY	74.5	13.4	15.3	-14.8
219	Alcorn St	74.4	14.8	15.2	-16.6
220	Brown	73.9	13.0	10.9	-11.1
221	Holy Cross	73.9	12.6	15.8	-15.6
222	Bethune-Cookman	73.4	12.7	12.3	-13.3
223	Rhode Island	72.6	14.3	12.1	-17.4
224	Northwestern St	72.1	5.9	15.6	-11.0
225	Savannah St	71.3	16.8	3.5	-15.2
226	Elon	69.8	7.9	6.5	-10.3
227	Lafayette	69.2	4.4	15.4	-16.0
228	Austin Peay	68.3	3.6	21.2	-22.9
229	Yale	68.1	5.4	12.4	-17.2
230	Texas Southern	68.1	8.2	4.2	-12.7
231	Georgetown DC	67.9	2.5	3.7	-5.1
232	Columbia	67.7	1.7	12.3	-13.3
233	Robert Morris PA	66.4	0.5	6.2	-8.6
234	Alabama A&M	66.4	9.0	10.3	-24.2
235	Norfolk St	66.3	6.3	3.4	-13.8

236	Central Conn St	66.2	-1.5	14.6	-14.8
237	Marist	65.9	3.4	10.8	-18.2
238	Alabama St	65.3	3.1	6.8	-15.4
239	Jacksonville FL	64.7	1.7	15.4	-23.8
240	Jackson St	64.5	4.1	1.8	-13.6
241	Howard	63.7	3.2	9.1	-21.8
242	Stetson	60.6	-4.4	5.5	-15.8
243	Morehead St	60.0	-4.8	15.2	-26.5
244	Valparaiso	59.3	-3.4	6.4	-21.3
245	Campbell	59.3	-5.2	4.1	-16.6
246	Morgan St	59.2	-0.5	1.3	-20.4
247	Delaware St	56.0	-4.4	3.9	-25.7
248	Butler	56.0	-9.5	5.1	-20.1
249	Mississippi Valley St	52.2	-6.3	1.6	-30.5
250	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	48.9	-9.6	-1.9	-30.7
251	Davidson	41.9	-28.4	-1.9	-23.2

