

RATINGS 11-26-16

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. In all the craziness of Rivalry Week, the ratings picked 67% winners and went 53% against the spread. For the season, that makes 51% against the spread – not bad, but you won't make money with that percentage in Vegas. I guess I'll keep teaching.

It's championship game week! There are mercifully few rematches this year. The only two are in the Mountain West – Wyoming beat San Diego State 34-33 two weeks ago – and in Conference USA – Louisiana Tech beat Western Kentucky 55-52 in October – and those games look worthy of a replay. The major conferences had major disparities in division strengths, but the championship games have upset possibilities. The playoff selection committee may have a long night Saturday night. Ohio State is already a headache. It's worth remembering that two years ago TCU dropped from #3 to #5 in the last week (despite winning its game by a large margin).

Alabama and Florida play in the SEC Championship Game for the ninth time, having split the first eight. This is the 25th SEC Championship Game. The excellent documentary "The Play That Changed College Football" tells how there was almost not a 2nd game. In 1992, against almost everybody's wishes, the SEC instituted divisions and this playoff game. Going into the game, Alabama was a solid #2 and in line for the national championship game against Miami (with resulting big bucks for all in the SEC) ... unless 3-loss Florida beat them. The Gators scored two second-half touchdowns to tie the game and looked to have the momentum to win the game and potentially kill the championship game idea. Thankfully for Alabama, the SEC, Dr. Pepper, and whoever likes these games, the Tide's Antonio Langham had a pick 6 with 3:16 left in the fourth quarter to win the game. Alabama went on to beat Miami for its first national championship since Bear Bryant. My not-so-hard trivia question is to name the Alabama coach. The background is a large hint – naming the circumstances of that picture gets you bonus points.

A couple of odds and ends before the predictions. The top 5 offensive teams according to my ratings are Oklahoma, Ohio State, Michigan, Louisville, and Pittsburgh. All the ratings know is that Ohio State scored 30 and Michigan 27 on Saturday – not how it looked. Pittsburgh scored 76 on Saturday, so I guess that's legit. The top five defensive (by points) teams are Alabama, Ohio State, Michigan, Wisconsin, and LSU. This may tell you why Michigan is still #3 (that and not wanting to see another Harbaugh tantrum).

Here are the predictions.

Western Michigan 38, Ohio 18
Washington 29, Colorado 24
Navy 35, Temple 31
Alabama 28, Florida 7
Clemson 33, Virginia Tech 21
Wisconsin 24, Penn State 23
Oklahoma 45, Oklahoma State 36
Wyoming 36, San Diego State 34
Western Kentucky 43, Louisiana Tech 35

And here are the ratings:

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Alabama	143.4	86.6	48.8	28.4
2	Ohio State	142.0	82.7	53.2	25.5
3	Michigan	138.3	76.5	53.0	24.9
4	Clemson	135.1	78.5	48.9	18.3
5	Washington	134.3	75.1	49.8	19.9
6	Wisconsin	131.9	74.6	40.4	24.0
7	Penn State	131.2	74.5	46.8	15.9
8	Colorado	130.9	73.1	43.4	20.3
9	Southern Cal	129.2	71.1	43.4	18.8
10	Florida St	128.5	71.8	45.2	14.3
11	Oklahoma	127.9	68.8	53.4	8.7
12	LSU	127.0	66.5	40.0	22.8
13	Washington St	125.7	65.8	47.8	12.8
14	Louisville	125.5	63.1	52.9	10.7
15	Auburn	125.4	64.6	40.5	21.0
16	West Virginia	125.2	68.0	41.2	15.1
17	Stanford	124.8	67.8	35.1	20.5
18	Western Michigan	124.6	67.5	45.9	9.7
19	Iowa	123.4	64.8	36.6	19.5
20	Virginia Tech	123.1	63.9	40.8	15.9
21	Oklahoma St	123.1	64.5	45.2	10.5
22	Boise St	123.0	67.3	39.2	12.7
23	Nebraska	123.0	68.2	35.8	14.7
24	Navy	122.9	66.4	45.8	7.0

25	Florida	122.6	65.9	31.8	20.9
26	South Florida	122.4	65.8	49.1	3.1
27	Tennessee	122.3	65.6	47.8	4.6
28	Texas A&M	122.1	62.5	43.3	12.6
29	North Carolina	122.0	64.2	41.4	11.9
30	Pittsburgh	121.8	63.9	52.1	1.1
31	Houston	121.0	60.9	42.5	12.7
32	Utah	120.5	61.9	37.6	15.1
33	Miami FL	120.4	58.6	40.9	16.0
34	Minnesota	119.8	61.8	39.0	12.1
35	North Dakota St	119.3	67.0	29.6	13.4
36	Tulsa	119.2	61.1	47.5	3.0
37	Georgia Tech	118.8	62.7	36.8	10.8
38	Temple	118.3	57.9	38.2	14.4
39	Memphis	117.9	56.8	44.4	8.5
40	Brigham Young	117.7	56.9	36.7	15.7
41	Kansas St	116.1	54.6	37.2	14.4
42	Western Kentucky	115.5	52.7	45.1	7.4
43	Northwestern	115.4	53.1	37.6	14.3
44	TCU	115.1	52.5	39.4	12.5
45	Mississippi	115.1	54.2	45.4	4.0
46	Arkansas	115.0	56.9	39.1	6.5
47	Georgia	114.9	58.1	32.4	11.4
48	Air Force	114.7	57.9	37.6	6.0
49	Toledo	114.6	55.7	41.7	4.6
50	Appalachian St	114.2	57.2	29.1	14.2
51	San Diego St	113.8	53.5	36.5	10.7
52	Indiana	113.5	54.4	36.7	8.7
53	Troy	113.4	56.6	34.7	7.5
54	North Carolina St	113.2	51.8	33.8	14.2
55	Eastern Washington	112.9	56.1	42.4	-0.9
56	Kentucky	112.6	55.2	37.3	4.7
57	Colorado St	112.6	52.6	38.8	6.7
58	Vanderbilt	112.5	53.1	30.1	14.3
59	Wyoming	112.0	55.7	42.0	-2.3
60	Mississippi St	111.1	49.7	41.6	4.0
61	California	111.0	50.5	47.4	-3.1
62	UCLA	110.0	46.4	34.6	12.6
63	The Citadel	110.0	59.5	26.4	3.2
64	Central Florida	110.0	46.7	36.7	10.0
65	New Mexico	109.7	52.9	38.3	-0.4
66	Maryland	109.3	50.3	33.4	6.9
67	South Dakota St	109.0	51.8	38.1	-0.8
68	Arizona St	108.8	48.2	40.8	0.9
69	Oregon St	108.5	45.9	34.9	9.3
70	Notre Dame	108.4	41.1	41.8	8.4
71	Youngstown St	108.4	51.4	26.0	10.6
72	Oregon	108.4	46.2	45.9	-2.5
73	South Carolina	108.3	50.6	25.4	11.8
74	Wake Forest	108.0	47.7	27.3	13.1

75	Baylor	107.9	43.9	40.0	5.3
76	Texas	107.7	42.7	37.7	8.7
77	Chattanooga	107.3	50.6	30.8	4.0
78	Louisiana Tech	107.2	44.3	42.2	0.7
79	Jacksonville St	107.1	49.7	28.3	7.2
80	James Madison	106.9	47.1	42.0	-3.6
81	Sam Houston St	106.8	46.2	45.6	-6.0
82	Michigan St	106.7	40.3	36.4	10.7
83	Texas Tech	106.5	41.9	49.5	-5.1
84	Boston College	106.0	47.3	27.8	8.0
85	Old Dominion	105.9	47.4	35.9	-0.3
86	Wofford	105.1	49.8	22.8	7.5
87	Idaho	105.1	50.8	29.3	-0.4
88	Arkansas St	105.0	44.7	29.4	7.5
89	Duke	104.8	41.4	31.8	9.0
90	SMU	104.5	45.0	33.4	2.0
91	Ohio U.	104.3	46.4	26.0	6.9
92	Missouri	104.2	41.1	38.2	1.5
93	Syracuse	103.5	43.6	34.8	-0.1
94	Arizona	103.5	42.2	36.3	0.1
95	Middle Tennessee St	102.6	43.1	38.5	-5.4
96	Central Arkansas	102.5	44.3	27.1	4.1
97	Iowa St	102.4	35.1	35.9	7.2
98	Eastern Michigan	101.4	43.6	29.7	-0.2
99	Northern Illinois	101.4	39.3	31.9	3.3
100	Northern Iowa	101.4	37.2	28.6	9.1
101	Central Michigan	101.1	40.6	30.4	2.3
102	North Dakota	101.1	45.2	24.3	2.1
103	Illinois	100.8	39.4	29.3	4.3
104	Tulane	100.5	36.9	28.9	7.2
105	Cincinnati	100.4	38.0	25.3	9.2
106	Charleston Southern	100.3	41.1	30.3	-0.3
107	Samford	99.8	41.8	31.8	-4.0
108	Coastal Carolina	99.3	39.9	30.3	-1.3
109	Hawai'i	99.2	41.6	29.6	-2.9
110	Villanova	99.1	40.6	19.4	8.3
111	Miami OH	99.1	38.6	24.4	5.8
112	Utah St	98.9	34.7	30.3	4.7
113	Army	98.9	33.2	29.7	7.2
114	Texas-San Antonio	98.3	36.1	28.4	3.4
115	Southern Miss	98.3	35.9	33.3	-1.5
116	East Carolina	98.2	34.8	34.1	-1.0
117	Louisiana-Lafayette	98.2	38.8	26.2	1.5
118	Purdue	98.0	36.6	35.0	-4.6
119	Illinois St	97.9	36.6	24.7	5.3
120	Western Illinois	97.4	39.1	28.5	-3.3
121	Richmond	97.3	39.4	27.4	-2.6
122	South Alabama	97.3	36.1	26.4	2.8
123	Virginia	97.0	32.0	30.2	3.6
124	Georgia Southern	96.7	33.8	28.2	2.5

125	Rutgers	96.4	35.9	26.2	0.9
126	Akron	96.3	35.8	31.6	-4.6
127	San José St	95.4	34.1	27.6	-0.5
128	Nevada	95.3	32.8	25.3	3.1
129	Cal Poly SLO	95.0	35.1	30.4	-5.7
130	South Dakota	94.8	34.0	31.7	-5.9
131	Southern Utah	94.3	33.5	27.0	-2.0
132	Connecticut	94.2	31.9	20.7	6.4
133	Mercer	94.2	37.1	24.5	-4.4
134	Bowling Green	93.9	34.6	28.6	-5.9
135	UNLV	93.8	31.1	34.2	-7.2
136	New Hampshire	93.6	34.0	23.7	-1.1
137	Georgia St	93.4	29.5	24.2	3.9
138	Louisiana-Monroe	93.3	36.0	28.0	-8.7
139	Grambling St	93.2	33.1	26.9	-4.2
140	Kansas	92.7	28.5	26.6	1.3
141	Kennesaw St	92.4	32.7	29.2	-7.9
142	Kent St	92.4	29.2	23.6	2.4
143	Ball St	92.3	27.6	28.1	0.0
144	North Texas	92.2	30.9	24.8	-1.5
145	Montana	92.1	26.5	32.6	-3.7
146	Lehigh	92.1	31.5	31.8	-9.7
147	Liberty	91.8	31.7	24.0	-2.7
148	New Mexico St	90.9	31.6	27.3	-8.2
149	Albany NY	90.3	30.4	20.2	-0.9
150	Weber St	90.3	32.3	21.2	-4.5
151	Maine	90.3	32.0	20.2	-3.1
152	Northern Arizona	90.3	27.9	25.4	-2.9
153	Florida Int'l	90.2	27.8	24.1	-1.6
154	Princeton	89.7	27.2	24.3	-2.2
155	San Diego	89.4	26.2	24.6	-2.0
156	Tennessee-Martin	89.4	27.6	23.4	-2.7
157	Massachusetts	89.3	24.6	30.1	-5.6
158	Furman	89.1	24.1	26.1	-1.4
159	Southern Illinois	89.1	24.0	29.1	-4.3
160	Northern Colorado	88.6	27.7	25.1	-6.4
161	North Carolina A&T	88.4	32.3	22.0	-10.1
162	Eastern Illinois	88.2	28.0	22.6	-5.3
163	UNC-Charlotte	88.0	25.3	24.5	-4.2
164	Fordham	87.9	28.6	27.8	-12.0
165	Indiana St	87.8	26.1	25.7	-7.1
166	Tennessee Tech	87.7	26.2	22.7	-4.3
167	SE Louisiana	87.2	28.1	24.2	-9.6
168	Duquesne	86.8	26.5	24.4	-8.7
169	Marshall	86.7	22.0	23.9	-2.5
170	Missouri St	86.5	28.5	22.6	-10.3
171	Stony Brook	86.1	25.7	13.4	1.6
172	UTEP	85.9	22.4	24.8	-5.9
173	Fresno St	85.6	19.2	19.9	2.7
174	Gardner-Webb	85.6	24.2	18.8	-3.0

175	Nicholls St	85.6	21.2	25.4	-5.7
176	Rice	85.6	21.2	25.8	-6.2
177	North Carolina Central	85.4	33.4	14.9	-11.8
178	Florida Atlantic	84.9	20.6	27.0	-8.3
179	William & Mary	84.6	23.4	18.3	-4.0
180	Pennsylvania	84.6	24.3	17.0	-4.0
181	McNeese St	84.0	17.8	24.5	-4.1
182	Southern U.	84.0	25.4	25.2	-15.1
183	Tennessee St	83.0	23.3	23.6	-13.2
184	Montana St	82.7	18.2	17.8	-1.3
185	Buffalo	82.6	18.6	19.4	-3.7
186	East Tennessee St	82.5	26.9	10.4	-5.9
187	Colgate	81.9	16.1	21.3	-4.1
188	Delaware	81.6	18.2	18.4	-4.7
189	St Francis PA	81.5	16.9	18.9	-3.8
190	Western Carolina	81.5	18.8	24.3	-11.7
191	Texas St-San Marcos	80.9	22.5	19.7	-13.4
192	Portland St	80.8	14.7	28.3	-11.9
193	Dayton	80.7	19.5	16.9	-7.2
194	Harvard	80.4	20.2	15.7	-7.6
195	Towson	80.3	17.7	18.9	-7.6
196	VMI	80.3	17.4	16.1	-4.6
197	Murray St	79.8	16.7	22.2	-10.9
198	SE Missouri St	79.5	12.4	15.1	1.1
199	UC-Davis	79.4	14.6	20.4	-7.4
200	Prairie View A&M	78.8	21.3	18.9	-16.3
201	South Carolina St	78.5	18.1	11.8	-5.5
202	Lamar	77.6	13.8	14.6	-4.9
203	Monmouth NJ	76.8	15.1	17.5	-11.7
204	Wagner	76.0	10.0	15.6	10.7
205	Houston Baptist	76.0	17.2	11.6	-10.6
206	Idaho St	75.3	12.2	21.0	-15.0
207	Stephen F. Austin	75.1	11.9	21.5	-15.7
208	Bryant	74.4	8.4	22.0	-13.2
209	Drake	74.0	14.9	12.6	-13.5
210	Eastern Kentucky	74.0	6.9	17.7	-8.0
211	Alcorn St	73.3	12.6	16.0	-15.6
212	Dartmouth	73.2	8.4	10.8	-4.9
213	Bucknell	72.4	6.7	11.0	-4.7
214	Sacred Heart	72.4	8.0	16.6	-12.2
215	Presbyterian	72.4	12.2	5.5	-6.8
216	Hampton	71.2	12.3	6.6	-11.1
217	Sacramento St	70.9	6.6	18.6	-16.1
218	Holy Cross	70.1	7.1	15.4	-15.6
219	Bethune-Cookman	70.0	8.4	11.2	-13.4
220	Cornell NY	69.2	5.9	15.1	-16.0
221	Florida A&M	69.1	13.1	8.7	-19.4
222	Rhode Island	68.8	6.8	13.6	-16.7
223	Elon	67.6	4.9	7.3	-10.8
224	Yale	67.4	4.5	11.9	-15.3

225	Brown	67.4	3.5	9.5	-11.7
226	Northwestern St	67.0	-1.6	15.4	-11.8
227	Texas Southern	66.6	4.6	7.0	-12.8
228	Alabama A&M	66.5	8.3	11.4	-22.3
229	Austin Peay	66.3	0.9	21.0	-22.3
230	Columbia	66.3	-0.4	12.3	-12.0
231	Lafayette	65.3	-1.1	14.2	-15.4
232	Norfolk St	65.0	4.6	3.4	-13.1
233	Alabama St	63.5	-0.2	7.6	-14.7
234	Jacksonville FL	63.3	-0.5	16.7	-23.8
235	Robert Morris PA	63.0	-4.9	5.8	-7.8
236	Georgetown DC	62.6	-4.8	3.9	-6.8
237	Central Conn St	62.3	-6.5	14.2	-15.7
238	Savannah St	62.2	3.5	2.6	-17.8
239	Jackson St	61.2	-1.1	1.9	-13.5
240	Marist	60.7	-4.8	10.8	-18.4
241	Howard	59.9	-1.8	8.0	-21.7
242	Morgan St	57.7	-2.5	3.6	-22.1
243	Morehead St	57.6	-9.3	14.9	-24.4
244	Valparaiso	56.3	-8.4	6.8	-20.8
245	Campbell	56.3	-10.0	6.5	-18.4
246	Stetson	56.1	-10.6	5.3	-17.1
247	Butler	53.2	-14.4	5.6	-19.4
248	Delaware St	50.6	-12.9	2.9	-25.1
249	Mississippi Valley St	49.4	-9.8	0.5	-29.9
250	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	46.7	-12.2	-2.4	-30.5
251	Davidson	38.1	-34.1	-3.7	-21.7

