

RATINGS 10-28-17

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* (order on Amazon before they're all gone!) and www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html on my website.

I've always been amazed at how well the system does at ranking teams and predicting games since there is very little information used. Overall schedule, points and wins – nothing very sophisticated. This year, I'm not very happy with the ratings. And, no, it does not relate to Clemson being #7. In a good year, both versions of the ratings (one uses schedule and points, the other uses schedule and wins – the overall rating shown here is a combination of the two) tell the same story. This year the two are like FOX and MSNBC, or the Republicans and the Democrats. If you want, you can blame Trump or Obama, depending. For example, the prediction below has Miami over Virginia Tech by 5: 1 point ahead in the combined ratings plus 4 for home field. The win ratings have unbeaten Miami ahead by 9, but the points ratings have the Hokies by 9. That's too big of a difference! By contrast, the Oklahoma – Oklahoma State game is close by every measure. Overall the Sooners by 1, offenses within 0.4, defenses within 0.5: close and a consistent story.

The Hokies-Canes rivalry is a Big East creation that became heated. Miami won the first 12 meetings, losing for the first time in 1995. Tech then won the next 5. Since then, it's a very close series with the Hokies ahead 9-8. The 1995 game is shown in the background. Tech was 0-2, but this win launched them on a 10-0 streak finishing with a Sugar Bowl victory over Texas. The QB ducking his head in a classic ball "fake" was once thought to be the future of the San Francisco 49ers. Given that the Niners are now 0-8, perhaps he was. The running back was Tech's leading rusher that year, and gained just under 2800 yards in his career. Yet his name is more likely to bring to mind a Dallas Cowboy known as "The Sphinx" for his refusal to talk to the press. Name the two VT stars.

The winner of the Tech-Miami game is likely to win their division, and will likely face the winner of the Clemson-NC State game. So it's semifinals week in the ACC. The battle of the Oklahomas eliminates one team from the regular season title, but the Big 12's unfortunate decision to add a conference championship game means that there could be a rematch. A split could well eliminate both teams from the playoffs. Nice call, Big 12.

This week's predictions:

The Big Game: Miami 24, Virginia Tech 19

Not #1 vs #2 this year: Georgia Tech 28, Virginia 21 and Alabama 35, LSU 13

Big 10 letdowns? Ohio State 31, Iowa 20 and Penn State 28, Michigan State 19

Bedlam! Oklahoma State 41, Oklahoma 38

Big Game in the MAC (well, a good game): Toledo 35, Northern Illinois 26

We are Lane Kiffin: Florida Atlantic 35, Marshall 30

Clinching the SEC East: Georgia 28, South Carolina 7

A classic letdown game? Central Florida 49, SMU 31

Pac-12 positioning: Washington State 31, Stanford 28 and Southern Cal 45, Arizona 36

The battle of the N's (N for knowledge?): Northwestern 31, Nebraska 27

And here are the ratings:

		Overall	Wins	Offense	Defense
1	Notre Dame	130.93	76.80	53.79	20.78
2	Penn St	130.88	75.12	53.62	23.04
3	Ohio St	130.16	72.25	55.39	23.31
4	Alabama	129.17	73.18	49.60	25.39
5	Georgia	129.11	76.93	44.79	25.05
6	UCF	128.66	78.00	52.36	14.93
7	Clemson	128.53	75.22	45.03	25.64
8	Wisconsin	125.18	72.70	43.02	22.64
9	Miami FL	122.75	74.88	41.15	15.53
10	Virginia Tech	121.93	66.30	42.55	23.51
11	Oklahoma	121.22	64.54	53.78	12.86
12	Washington	121.08	63.14	44.55	23.62
13	Oklahoma St	120.21	62.62	53.35	13.33
14	USC	119.36	66.99	44.84	13.88
15	TCU	119.11	62.45	40.88	23.26
16	Iowa St	119.04	62.68	44.38	19.28
17	NC State	119.01	67.72	43.22	13.64
18	Michigan St	117.72	66.52	35.73	19.51
19	Mississippi St	117.63	63.62	43.94	14.96
20	Michigan	117.22	63.70	38.25	19.51
21	Memphis	116.77	69.05	47.47	2.05
22	Stanford	115.85	61.49	42.28	14.99
23	Auburn	115.64	57.29	41.03	21.32
24	Iowa	115.32	60.11	37.26	20.54
25	Washington St	114.54	60.63	40.50	14.65

26	Arizona	114.07	58.53	53.59	3.17
27	Northwestern	113.60	59.39	39.83	14.63
28	Boston College	113.30	59.55	38.67	14.82
29	Georgia Tech	113.20	56.06	43.59	14.31
30	Navy	113.09	61.96	37.14	12.62
31	Toledo	111.77	60.34	45.03	3.57
32	South Florida	111.73	58.64	41.18	9.60
33	South Carolina	111.70	61.76	30.28	16.26
34	San Diego St	110.73	59.20	31.78	15.75
35	Wake Forest	110.40	53.26	40.33	14.29
36	Boise St	110.22	57.67	38.73	9.57
37	LSU	110.12	57.76	34.98	12.94
38	Oregon	109.61	53.24	44.62	8.05
39	Texas	109.13	46.63	38.26	22.02
40	Texas Tech	108.87	50.16	46.44	8.49
41	Texas A&M	108.78	57.31	36.33	8.83
42	James Madison	108.58	56.00	35.25	11.18
43	Maryland	108.47	54.63	45.79	2.18
44	UCLA	108.40	53.98	45.18	3.49
45	Arizona St	107.59	52.46	39.82	8.85
46	Houston	107.49	54.31	30.34	15.62
47	SMU	107.02	53.94	45.52	-0.26
48	Syracuse	106.85	51.42	39.07	9.13
49	Louisville	106.36	48.62	49.21	1.49
50	N Illinois	106.10	52.56	34.37	10.43
51	Kentucky	106.01	56.92	32.17	6.61
52	West Virginia	105.76	46.58	47.82	4.10
53	Nebraska	105.23	49.15	39.09	8.09
54	N Dakota St	105.12	48.14	35.63	12.63
55	Florida St	105.08	47.10	31.50	18.05
56	Florida	104.98	51.89	33.19	9.71
57	FL Atlantic	104.41	47.61	44.25	2.94
58	California	104.39	46.94	37.94	10.09
59	Purdue	103.76	41.40	32.92	20.93
60	Marshall	103.63	51.14	31.71	8.82
61	Pittsburgh	103.42	46.73	35.40	10.49
62	Indiana	103.04	43.80	37.91	10.93
63	Virginia	102.71	49.27	32.58	8.15
64	South Dakota	102.70	44.26	41.52	5.86
65	Minnesota	102.64	42.73	34.85	14.40
66	Fresno St	101.94	42.41	33.57	14.37
67	Duke	101.80	42.50	34.14	13.34
68	Colorado	101.32	43.94	32.65	11.70
69	Army	100.88	45.27	35.49	5.98
70	Utah	100.65	42.31	31.29	13.56



71	Kansas St	100.13	37.79	38.35	11.23
72	Ohio	99.69	41.46	44.22	-0.65
73	Colorado St	99.36	42.04	36.50	5.48
74	Tulane	99.00	43.71	32.77	6.07
75	Troy	98.91	46.10	27.21	8.23
76	W Michigan	98.48	41.48	41.85	-1.33
77	S Dakota St	98.48	40.23	39.09	3.11
78	Florida Intl	97.88	50.56	25.36	1.57
79	Wyoming	97.51	40.82	29.15	9.83
80	Tennessee	97.38	41.01	30.61	7.78
81	Elon	97.18	51.21	23.15	1.17
82	Akron	96.53	42.59	25.20	8.97
83	Missouri	96.49	37.46	45.17	-4.25
84	Air Force	96.30	37.25	43.68	-2.97
85	Arkansas	96.27	39.34	38.47	-0.61
86	Rutgers	96.10	35.35	33.61	9.14
87	Vanderbilt	95.43	39.61	32.82	2.58
88	Weber St	95.07	39.03	26.91	8.36
89	North Texas	94.94	42.42	38.39	-7.97
90	Mississippi	94.71	36.58	41.30	-3.66
91	Arkansas St	94.66	34.53	33.41	6.84
92	W Illinois	94.36	34.78	35.78	3.38
93	Stony Brook	94.31	42.36	26.34	2.59
94	Northern Arizona	94.23	36.80	33.02	3.12
95	Cincinnati	94.20	38.24	29.41	4.73
96	Jacksonville St	94.19	40.96	23.84	6.65
97	Cent Arkansas	93.77	40.25	30.56	-0.17
98	Utah St	93.60	34.30	35.36	2.54
99	Illinois St	93.59	36.57	26.96	7.90
100	Northern Iowa	93.55	34.78	32.77	4.38
101	Southern Utah	93.51	41.37	30.18	-1.92
102	C Michigan	93.28	36.85	27.03	6.67
103	Sam Houston St	93.21	41.11	35.20	-7.35
104	Furman	92.88	38.20	32.14	-1.24
105	Wofford	92.75	44.62	22.90	-0.86
106	Delaware	92.74	39.48	22.41	6.44
107	Southern Miss	92.60	38.16	23.13	7.13
108	North Carolina	92.16	30.39	32.81	6.72
109	Temple	91.85	34.75	26.14	6.78
110	UT San Antonio	91.40	34.00	26.95	5.84
111	E Washington	91.09	37.89	33.81	-6.98
112	Louisiana Tech	91.03	34.73	33.28	-2.37
113	E Michigan	90.96	28.53	24.40	14.60
114	Miami OH	90.95	31.55	29.03	5.91
115	Buffalo	90.83	29.02	31.68	6.34



116	Appalachian St	90.57	31.40	30.18	4.01
117	MTSU	90.42	34.83	23.26	5.99
118	Tulsa	90.32	29.87	37.40	-1.78
119	Illinois	89.88	31.19	27.36	5.38
120	UNLV	89.86	30.15	33.21	0.88
121	Youngstown St	88.81	26.28	26.65	9.97
122	NC A&T	88.54	35.29	27.21	-3.29
123	Richmond	88.04	31.90	34.21	-7.01
124	WKU	87.87	31.51	23.90	3.40
125	East Carolina	87.74	34.55	32.66	-9.75
126	Samford	87.46	33.62	25.71	-2.24
127	Yale	87.41	33.59	23.14	0.23
128	Georgia St	86.92	32.42	21.11	2.61
129	S Illinois	86.87	28.25	27.01	2.14
130	New Mexico	86.51	27.13	25.53	4.22
131	UAB	86.40	31.39	26.51	-2.71
132	Connecticut	85.69	32.20	24.19	-3.26
133	Monmouth NJ	85.10	34.59	25.85	-9.60
134	Villanova	84.78	25.77	22.58	4.66
135	Maine	84.52	27.03	23.95	0.95
136	Oregon St	84.29	24.17	31.20	-3.05
137	Montana St	84.24	24.75	22.19	5.05
138	New Mexico St	84.16	23.15	31.99	-2.81
139	South Alabama	83.90	24.73	22.54	3.89
140	Montana	83.83	25.85	31.97	-7.21
141	Hawaii	83.76	25.15	27.46	-1.96
142	BYU	83.68	23.92	19.48	7.46
143	Kennesaw	83.65	28.68	19.45	1.08
144	Nevada	83.36	19.42	32.11	0.03
145	Kent	83.35	29.23	15.65	3.39
146	Bowling Green	83.31	24.15	29.33	-3.60
147	New Hampshire	83.09	28.83	21.56	-2.64
148	UC Davis	82.93	23.62	29.61	-4.14
149	Mercer	82.90	23.48	23.21	2.38
150	Austin Peay	82.87	27.00	24.67	-3.86
151	CS Sacramento	82.78	24.21	28.35	-4.04
152	Nicholls St	82.76	32.16	19.93	-6.26
153	Grambling	82.48	29.82	21.77	-5.69
154	Duquesne	82.39	30.07	23.99	-8.46
155	McNeese St	82.34	27.58	22.38	-3.67
156	W Carolina	82.18	25.25	26.80	-5.37
157	Old Dominion	80.99	22.12	26.57	-3.95
158	Kansas	80.97	20.21	29.61	-4.51
159	Idaho	80.85	21.50	20.62	2.47
160	Baylor	80.78	13.79	32.87	0.34



161	Charleston So	79.89	24.05	16.60	0.68
162	ULM	79.78	19.95	34.37	-11.87
163	Citadel	79.75	24.14	17.41	-0.59
164	Columbia	79.35	29.55	15.31	-6.69
165	ULL	79.30	22.59	29.07	-11.32
166	Bethune-Cookman	79.18	26.33	13.54	-1.05
167	Princeton	78.43	19.76	28.96	-9.60
168	William & Mary	78.06	21.31	15.38	1.01
169	Howard	77.93	24.31	24.83	-12.77
170	Colgate	77.75	18.13	18.39	1.45
171	Albany NY	77.06	17.13	13.82	5.63
172	SE Louisiana	77.01	16.75	29.79	-9.97
173	Massachusetts	76.72	10.46	29.01	-1.52
174	Rice	76.53	19.55	19.20	-4.31
175	NC Central	76.16	24.65	16.34	-9.16
176	Dartmouth	76.06	23.85	14.71	-6.73
177	Towson	75.72	21.51	11.79	-1.53
178	Alcorn St	75.50	21.88	16.62	-7.41
179	E Illinois	75.48	21.66	16.87	-7.41
180	Ball St	75.35	19.35	21.12	-8.91
181	TN Martin	73.95	13.78	13.32	2.83
182	Charlotte	73.84	14.83	19.03	-4.56
183	North Dakota	73.67	11.88	24.04	-6.07
184	San Diego	73.44	15.29	17.62	-4.77
185	Liberty	73.02	15.63	26.07	-14.73
186	ETSU	72.95	17.70	20.23	-11.83
187	St Francis PA	72.26	15.69	9.73	-0.37
188	Tennessee St	72.12	13.32	16.26	-4.10
189	SF Austin	72.12	17.51	11.89	-5.31
190	Missouri St	71.98	11.71	26.02	-12.05
191	Hampton	71.93	20.86	9.84	-8.18
192	Idaho St	71.59	8.15	27.66	-9.92
193	E Kentucky	71.57	12.92	21.17	-9.83
194	Rhode Island	71.38	10.96	22.58	-9.11
195	San Jose St	71.00	10.00	24.33	-17.00
196	Chattanooga	70.94	11.29	18.26	-6.32
197	N Colorado	70.89	7.82	26.99	-10.54
198	Central Conn	70.85	17.35	19.93	-16.30
199	UTEP	70.29	9.34	16.41	-3.50
200	Cornell	70.00	13.86	15.60	-9.44
201	Prairie View	69.46	11.16	18.24	-9.85
202	Southern Univ	69.35	16.52	19.00	-18.01
203	Harvard	69.16	11.00	16.48	-8.62
204	Texas St	68.88	8.25	13.86	-3.03
205	Presbyterian	68.57	13.85	10.82	-8.22



206	Ga Southern	68.49	4.88	23.48	-9.12
207	SE Missouri St	67.46	3.70	16.80	-3.45
208	Holy Cross	67.04	8.71	15.02	-9.39
209	Coastal Car	67.04	2.90	23.21	-9.85
210	Norfolk St	66.39	13.31	10.69	-12.82
211	Bucknell	66.07	11.82	8.69	-9.62
212	Northwestern LA	65.22	7.16	12.54	-9.40
213	Penn	65.10	5.96	15.52	-11.08
214	Cal Poly	65.00	-3.51	17.29	-0.46
215	Abilene Chr	64.70	3.83	12.72	-6.42
216	Murray St	64.40	3.70	10.29	-4.60
217	Sacred Heart	63.70	6.24	14.62	-14.06
218	Drake	63.26	11.25	5.47	-12.68
219	Alabama St	62.13	5.61	5.83	-8.34
220	Tennessee Tech	61.77	-0.58	12.80	-7.96
221	Gardner Webb	61.74	0.70	9.79	-6.73
222	Indiana St	61.72	0.90	16.64	-13.91
223	Florida A&M	61.71	2.99	10.72	-10.80
224	Fordham	60.60	5.00	11.82	-17.36
225	Butler	60.16	2.67	10.49	-14.02
226	Alabama A&M	60.02	3.92	5.88	-11.42
227	S Carolina St	59.50	-3.84	6.30	-2.78
228	Portland St	59.41	-7.61	20.40	-12.10
229	Robert Morris	59.18	2.22	4.50	-9.88
230	Lehigh	58.89	-1.82	28.61	-29.31
231	Delaware St	58.87	2.58	7.44	-14.07
232	Dayton	58.35	-0.79	7.42	-10.85
233	Campbell	57.30	-3.50	11.06	-13.51
234	Lafayette	56.86	0.36	2.55	-11.25
235	Wagner	56.65	-2.64	6.78	-12.02
236	Bryant	56.29	-0.78	13.45	-22.06
237	Valparaiso	56.14	-0.48	14.66	-24.02
238	Jackson St	55.45	-3.59	6.56	-13.50
239	Incarnate Word	55.03	-2.94	16.41	-25.29
240	Savannah St	53.80	-5.22	9.26	-18.16
241	Morgan St	53.70	-6.56	11.18	-18.56
242	Jacksonville	53.66	0.13	15.38	-31.76
243	Houston Bap	52.91	-9.60	3.17	-8.46
244	Ark Pine Bluff	52.58	-4.92	11.50	-23.85
245	VMI	52.25	-5.57	2.72	-15.04
246	Brown	51.63	-6.76	1.81	-14.09
247	Lamar	50.95	-7.98	9.06	-21.41
248	MS Valley St	49.09	-3.48	5.86	-28.86
249	Marist	47.68	-8.66	2.61	-22.23
250	Georgetown	46.96	-15.00	1.41	-14.39



251	TX Southern	44.86	-18.10	6.57	-20.65
252	Morehead St	43.49	-10.28	5.98	-33.90
253	Stetson	40.26	-18.09	-1.21	-24.39
254	Davidson	33.30	-28.48	-1.55	-27.59

