

Ratings 11-17-12

Welcome back to By the Numbers, a rating system for college football teams. Descriptions of the system and ratings from past weeks and years can be found at www.roanoke.edu/mcsp/minton/bynumbers.html.

It's Thanksgiving Week! Family and friends. Turkey and mincemeat (and lots of games other than UVa – Tech). I hope you have a great holiday!

As much fun as a Kansas State – Oregon championship game would have been, a lot of people are happier with the prospect of Notre Dame – Alabama. I heard that ticket prices for the game went up 20% overnight.

My ratings system is really not cooperating. The game predictions have looked fine, and the week that I checked on all the games the ratings were better than 50% against the spread. But what's going on at the top? First Alabama lost to Texas A&M and stayed #1, and then this week Oregon lost to Stanford and jumps to #1. I'm glad nobody on ESPN is paying attention. However, it does shed some light on the way objective season-long rankings work. Which was more impressive last week, Alabama beating a really bad Western Carolina team or Oregon barely losing to Stanford? Granted, the Tide could have named the score against Western Carolina, and a loss is bad news. But, this system just looks at schedules and results. Oregon dropped 3 points due to its loss, but so did Bama due to its bad scheduling. And so did Notre Dame for continuing to play in the horrible ACC. While I don't like it, the Ducks being #1 seems to me to be defensible.

Nonetheless, you'll notice a different look at the bottom. There are 4 top 20s listed. The first is from my standard system that uses wins and points, and the second is a revised combination I'll describe in a bit. The next two are from using wins only and points only. First, notice that by won-loss record and schedule Notre Dame is a clear #1; Florida #2 and Stanford #3 is surprising. By points, Alabama is #1 followed by Oregon; Texas A&M at #3 is the surprise here. The comparison in rankings might be interesting to you.

I want to point out the difference in size of ratings; Notre Dame tops the win ratings at 83 while Alabama goes to 114 in the points ratings. Over the years, scoring has increased so much that points represent a higher percentage of the combined ratings than they did 10 years ago. The revised ratings give a

little more weight to wins to restore that balance. It's just coincidental that the revised ratings make more logical sense than the standard ones, and it's really a coincidence that Clemson is a little higher in the revised list. I'll keep score and see if the revised ratings predict games better.

Growing up in Texas, the big Thanksgiving Day game was Texas A&M versus Texas. There was also a pro game, which in my memory was always Detroit hosting Green Bay. I heard about other traditional games, such as VPI-VMI, but of course those were not on television; in fact, I don't remember ever seeing a Longhorn-Aggie game. TCU and Texas this week is not the same. The hope is that the Cotton Bowl can pair Texas and Texas A&M this year, but the Aggies and Johnny Football may reach higher than that.

The background for this week's ratings is a picture of a VPI "hat trick" from 1948. This was not a set of three goals in hockey (they played as much hockey then as the NHL does today) but rather spelling out words with their white Corps hats. First trivia question: where was the VPI-VMI game played? There is a great story about Tech's cannon, Skipper. It was engineered by Homer Hickam (of Rocket Boys fame) and fired off for the first time at the 1963 game. Hickam and others had grown tired of VMI firing off their cannon and then chanting, "Where's your cannon?" so they had Skipper built and snuck it onto the field. When the dreaded VMI chant started they unveiled Skipper and fired it off with such a large charge that it rattled (in Hickam's telling, blew out) the windows in the press box. Second trivia question: why is the cannon named Skipper?

There are a lot of big games this week. The SEC/ACC in-state rivalry returns, although the games may not be very close. I've listed the rivalry name next to the games below, when I could find a name. Ohio State / Michigan and Florida / Florida State don't seem to require a name. I saw a couple of postings that the Wisconsin / Penn State game was to have a new trophy for the winner, but I haven't heard the name of the trophy (New Trophy?). In any case, it will be a busy and eventful weekend.

The Division III playoffs have started. Mount Union scored 72 points in the first round, but Wisconsin-Whitewater missed the playoffs. The Wisconsin team is from Oshkosh, by gosh.

Here are predictions, based on the (standard) ratings with 4 points added for home field.

Thursday: **Texas over TCU by 14**

Friday: **LSU over Arkansas by 15**

Washington over Washington State by 14 (Apple Cup)

Arizona over Arizona State by 7 (Duel in the Desert)

Nebraska over Iowa by 13

Saturday: **Virginia Tech over Virginia by 9 (Commonwealth Cup)**

Oregon over Oregon State by 1 (Civil War)

Purdue over Indiana by 9 (Old Oaken Bucket)

Georgia over Georgia Tech by 22 (Clean Old-Fashioned Hate)

Oklahoma over Oklahoma State by 8 (Bedlam)

Alabama over Auburn by 31 (Iron Bowl)

Mississippi State over Mississippi by 1 (Egg Bowl)

Ohio State over Michigan by 9

Notre Dame over Southern Cal by 6

Florida over Florida State by 2

Miami over Duke by 1

Stanford over UCLA by 1

Penn State over Wisconsin by 2

Standard

1	Oregon	92.95
2	Alabama	92.53
3	Notre Dame	92.14
4	Florida	90.56
5	Kansas St	90.49
6	Texas A&M	89.63
7	Stanford	88.83
8	Oregon St	88.39
9	Georgia	88.20
10	Oklahoma	88.05
11	LSU	87.81
12	Ohio State	87.17
13	South Carolina	86.16
14	UCLA	84.53
15	Texas	84.34
16	Florida St	84.13
17	Oklahoma St	84.11
18	Nebraska	84.03
19	Clemson	83.70
20	Michigan	82.39

Wins Only

1	Notre Dame	83.17
2	Florida	82.04
3	Stanford	80.10
4	Ohio State	79.68
5	Oregon	78.63
6	Oregon St	78.04
7	Alabama	77.75
8	LSU	77.64
9	Kansas St	77.59
10	Georgia	77.59
11	South Carolina	76.38
12	Texas A&M	76.13
13	Nebraska	75.13
14	Oklahoma	74.69
15	UCLA	74.46
16	Texas	73.01
17	Arizona	72.89
18	Clemson	72.85
19	Michigan	71.81
20	Washington	71.62

Revised

1	Notre Dame	106.78
2	Oregon	106.68
3	Alabama	106.08
4	Florida	104.97
5	Kansas St	104.01
6	Texas A&M	102.86
7	Stanford	102.85
8	Oregon St	102.00
9	Georgia	101.72
10	LSU	101.34
11	Ohio State	101.11
12	Oklahoma	100.98
13	South Carolina	99.43
14	UCLA	97.43
15	Nebraska	97.06
16	Texas	96.95
17	Florida St	96.27
18	Clemson	96.27
19	Oklahoma St	96.02
20	Michigan	94.75

Points Only

1	Alabama	114.71
2	Oregon	114.43
3	Texas A&M	109.87
4	Kansas St	109.84
5	Oklahoma	108.07
6	Oklahoma St	105.92
7	Notre Dame	105.60
8	Florida St	104.29
9	Georgia	104.11
10	Oregon St	103.91
11	Florida	103.34
12	LSU	103.07
13	Stanford	101.91
14	Texas	101.34
15	South Carolina	100.82
16	Southern Cal	100.51
17	Clemson	99.97
18	Arizona St	99.89
19	UCLA	99.65
20	Baylor	98.64

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2	Alabama	92.53
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12	Ohio State	87.17
13	South Carolina	86.16
14	UCLA	84.53
15	Texas	84.34
16	Florida St	84.13
17	Oklahoma St	84.11
18	Nebraska	84.03
19	Clemson	83.70
20	Michigan	82.39
21	Southern Cal	82.29
22	Arizona	81.54
23	Washington	79.52
24	Wisconsin	79.47
25	Mississippi St	78.80
26	Utah St	78.61
27	Arizona St	78.52
28	Northwestern	78.16
29	Texas Tech	78.07
30	Northern Illinois	77.97
31	Baylor	77.29
32	Penn State	77.20
33	Rutgers	77.09
34	Iowa St	76.86
35	San José St	76.68
36	Louisville	76.19
37	Vanderbilt	75.84
38	Fresno St	75.43
39	Boise St	75.39
40	Missouri	74.95
41	Michigan St	74.91
42	Louisiana Tech	74.59
43	TCU	74.58
44	Brigham Young	74.54
45	West Virginia	74.45
46	Mississippi	74.24
47	Kent St	74.04



48	Cincinnati	73.76
49	North Carolina	73.66
50	Tulsa	73.61
51	Central Florida	73.12
52	Miami FL	73.01
53	San Diego St	72.97
54	Syracuse	72.74
55	Ball St	72.71
56	North Dakota St	72.55
57	Utah	72.23
58	Toledo	72.09
59	Arkansas St	71.75
60	Louisiana-Monroe	70.22
61	Purdue	70.02
62	Georgia Tech	69.72
63	Minnesota	69.47
64	Arkansas	69.32
65	Louisiana-Lafayette	69.10
66	North Carolina St	68.94
67	Tennessee	68.86
68	Virginia Tech	68.08
69	California	67.94
70	Navy	67.82
71	Duke	67.71
72	Montana St	67.40
73	Middle Tennessee St	67.39
74	Iowa	67.31
75	Sam Houston St	66.26
76	East Carolina	65.56
77	Western Kentucky	65.55
78	Auburn	65.36
79	Indiana	65.25
80	Eastern Washington	65.22
81	Nevada	65.18
82	Pittsburgh	65.10
83	Georgia Southern	64.64
84	Bowling Green	64.36
85	Ohio U.	64.09
86	South Dakota St	63.58
87	Cal Poly SLO	63.46
88	South Florida	63.43
89	Kentucky	63.31
90	Virginia	63.01
91	Central Arkansas	63.01
92	SMU	62.80
93	Illinois St	62.72
94	Wake Forest	62.69



95	Troy	62.47
96	Kansas	62.04
97	Temple	61.94
98	Tennessee-Martin	61.70
99	Wofford	61.66
100	Eastern Kentucky	61.42
101	Indiana St	61.20
102	Washington St	61.15
103	Rice	61.15
104	Appalachian St	61.01
105	Air Force	60.65
106	Eastern Illinois	60.44
107	Southern Illinois	60.13
108	Maryland	60.13
109	Connecticut	60.05
110	Old Dominion	59.87
111	Northern Iowa	59.66
112	Youngstown St	59.44
113	Central Michigan	59.36
114	Marshall	59.12
115	Boston College	59.04
116	Western Michigan	58.96
117	Towson	58.90
118	Wyoming	58.87
119	Northern Arizona	58.87
120	Houston	58.64
121	Tennessee St	58.43
122	North Texas	58.22
123	Jacksonville St	57.97
124	Villanova	57.65
125	Texas-San Antonio	57.65
126	Illinois	57.59
127	Stony Brook	57.29
128	Buffalo	57.10
129	Bethune-Cookman	56.88
130	Texas St-San Marcos	56.77
131	UTEP	56.62
132	Colorado St	56.45
133	Florida Atlantic	56.37
134	Florida Int'l	56.17
135	Miami OH	56.13
136	McNeese St	55.86
137	Chattanooga	55.71
138	Samford	55.55
139	New Mexico	55.45
140	Richmond	55.29
141	Murray St	55.12



142	The Citadel	55.03
143	Southern Utah	54.97
144	Memphis	54.61
145	Alabama-Birmingham	54.45
146	UNLV	54.30
147	Colorado	53.99
148	Army	53.97
149	James Madison	53.94
150	Missouri St	53.89
151	Harvard	53.54
152	Coastal Carolina	53.41
153	New Hampshire	53.18
154	North Dakota	53.13
155	Sacramento St	53.04
156	Eastern Michigan	52.91
157	Montana	52.90
158	Albany NY	51.72
159	Tulane	51.19
160	Lehigh	51.13
161	South Alabama	50.42
162	UC-Davis	49.91
163	Stephen F. Austin	49.77
164	Colgate	49.34
165	Northern Colorado	48.75
166	Portland St	48.55
167	Maine	48.09
168	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	47.95
169	Southern Miss	47.45
170	Akron	47.41
171	SE Louisiana St	47.37
172	Idaho	46.84
173	Alabama St	46.79
174	Hawai'i	46.75
175	North Carolina A&T	46.68
176	Furman	46.56
177	New Mexico St	46.29
178	Howard	45.64
179	Liberty	45.52
180	Jackson St	45.32
181	Delaware	45.26
182	Wagner	45.02
183	Weber St	44.86
184	South Carolina St	44.81
185	Tennessee Tech	44.75
186	SE Missouri St	44.69
187	Delaware St	44.63
188	Northwestern St	44.43



189	Brown	44.26
190	South Dakota	43.98
191	Pennsylvania	43.69
192	Elon	43.68
193	Massachusetts	43.45
194	Drake	43.35
195	Princeton	43.07
196	North Carolina Central	43.06
197	Florida A&M	42.94
198	Fordham	42.85
199	Western Illinois	41.96
200	Dartmouth	41.86
201	Alabama A&M	41.75
202	San Diego	41.08
203	William & Mary	41.01
204	Western Carolina	38.75
205	Monmouth NJ	38.13
206	Austin Peay	37.54
207	St Francis PA	37.48
208	Lafayette	37.14
209	Jacksonville FL	36.88
210	Duquesne	36.44
211	Lamar	36.38
212	Dayton	36.11
213	Mississippi Valley St	36.10
214	Cornell NY	36.06
215	Norfolk St	35.95
216	Butler	35.72
217	Georgetown DC	35.55
218	Hampton	34.85
219	Gardner-Webb	34.36
220	Charleston Southern	34.03
221	Robert Morris PA	33.59
222	Holy Cross	33.41
223	Georgia St	33.23
224	Morgan St	33.19
225	Southern U.	32.90
226	Nicholls St	32.66
227	Columbia	31.55
228	Bucknell	31.28
229	Prairie View A&M	31.03
230	Alcorn St	30.70
231	Bryant	30.31
232	Morehead St	29.60
233	Central Conn St	29.34
234	VMI	29.20
235	Yale	29.17



236	Marist	28.68
237	Idaho St	28.62
238	Sacred Heart	27.68
239	Rhode Island	26.32
240	Presbyterian	25.39
241	Texas Southern	24.60
242	Savannah St	24.40
243	Grambling St	22.71
244	Davidson	16.38
245	Valparaiso	12.40
246	Campbell	10.00

