

## Ratings (10/17)

Welcome to another year of By the Numbers, a very simple rating system that I hope gives you some insight into the college football season. Before getting into this week's games, I wanted to issue two thank-you's, one of them sincere. Dan Larsen provided me with a data retrieval program that's a huge time-saver. Thanks, Dan! And Microsoft forced me to change word-processing formats by changing Excel for no good reason. Thanks a lot, Bill. Anyway, I will be using different watermarks as backgrounds – see if you can identify the sources.

The ratings system uses each team's schedule, wins and losses, and points for and against. That's all. No home field, time of year, style points, or liberal bias. As the name says, this is By the Numbers, a simple benchmark to use as you wish. Amazingly, these ratings tend to look very much like the polls, and the predictions are fairly accurate. You can't make much money, but recently the system has gone 52% against the spread. More details are given at <http://www.roanoke.edu/staff/minton/bynumbers.html> and more details than you probably want are at <http://www.roanoke.edu/staff/minton/RatingsPaper.pdf>

This year's ratings open with the "right" top 3. Then I need to start "splaining." Other than 1-2, there is not a noticeable SEC bias. In fact, if any conference seems to be getting a lot of credit, it's the ACC. Having Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech and Miami well above the rest of the conference is not a problem, but all in the top 11? Apparently the ACC's out-of-conference showing wasn't as bad as we all thought. The Hokies get big strength of schedule points, with losses to #1 Alabama and #9 Georgia Tech and wins over #11 Miami and #14 Nebraska. I didn't say you had to agree, I'm just trying to explain. Boise and TCU are this year's best candidates for BCS-busters. Their schedules have been strong enough for them to rate in the top 10 here. Unlike in the human polls, you can expect Boise to drop here as they play more games in the weak WAC. You'll notice that all 245 Division 1 schools are rated. The top two FCS teams here are Montana and Richmond, which are unbeaten and 1-2 (although in the other order) in the official polls.

Last week's games had some star power, with the Red River showdown and Southern Cal / Notre Dame. Texas vs. Oklahoma at the Cotton Bowl was especially interesting to me since I had been at the State Fair of Texas (where the Cotton Bowl is) earlier in the week. I can recommend the fried cookie dough and the fried butter, but save your money and don't get the fried Coke.

This week's top games are highlighted below. The system is designed to produce ratings that represent points. To predict an upcoming game, just take the ratings, subtract, and add 4 points for home field. Enjoy the games!

Georgia Tech over Virginia by 11 (Playing for the division lead? Really?)  
Penn State over Michigan by 1 (Elimination game in the Big 10)  
Alabama over Tennessee by 20 (the Tide rolls the Vols if they get some O)  
Texas over Missouri by 14 (must win for both teams, for different reasons)  
North Carolina over Florida State by 1 (Noles have been good on the road)  
Kansas over Oklahoma by 2 (tough turnaround for OU without Bradford)  
TCU over BYU by 6 (big game of the week; Frogs try to stay unbeaten)  
Boise over Hawaii by 27 (this counts as a tough game for Boise)  
Notre Dame over BC by 10 (chance for the Eagles to show they're for real)

1	Alabama	92.44
2	Florida	92.13
3	Texas	91.19
4	Virginia Tech	88.87
5	Iowa	88.35
6	Oregon	88.34
7	Southern Cal	87.72
8	Boise St	86.70
9	Georgia Tech	85.51
10	TCU	85.22
11	Miami FL	84.20
12	LSU	82.61
13	Cincinnati	82.41
14	Nebraska	81.73
15	Arizona	81.13
16	Notre Dame	80.95
17	Penn State	80.72
18	Ohio State	80.51
19	California	80.21
20	Texas Tech	78.39



21	Arkansas	78.24
22	Wisconsin	77.97
23	South Carolina	77.92
24	West Virginia	77.57
25	Oklahoma	77.51
26	Brigham Young	77.51
27	Pittsburgh	76.98
28	Auburn	76.76
29	Tennessee	76.66
30	Oklahoma St	76.48
31	Washington	76.32
32	Clemson	76.27
33	Utah	75.88
34	Michigan	75.77
35	Georgia	75.68
36	Kansas	75.49
37	Stanford	75.32
38	Central Michigan	75.09
39	Boston College	74.78
40	Oregon St	74.77
41	Kentucky	74.20
42	UCLA	74.12
43	Fresno St	74.08
44	Michigan St	74.00
45	Houston	73.85
46	Mississippi	73.49
47	Minnesota	72.94
48	Missouri	72.85
49	Florida St	72.82
50	Arizona St	72.71
51	Idaho	72.58
52	South Florida	72.57
53	Navy	71.89
54	Montana	71.35
55	Connecticut	70.58
56	North Carolina	70.11
57	Virginia	69.94
58	Wake Forest	69.02
59	Northern Illinois	68.49
60	Air Force	68.41
61	Purdue	68.14
62	Richmond	67.98
63	Ohio U.	67.41
64	Colorado St	67.14
65	Iowa St	66.90



66	Colorado	66.70
67	Troy	66.61
68	Kansas St	66.49
69	Marshall	66.33
70	Tulsa	66.13
71	Mississippi St	65.99
72	Louisiana-Monroe	65.96
73	William & Mary	65.49
74	SMU	65.44
75	Villanova	65.06
76	Nevada	64.98
77	Northern Iowa	64.66
78	East Carolina	64.32
79	Indiana	64.20
80	Rutgers	64.07
81	Southern Miss	63.91
82	Stephen F. Austin	63.79
83	Southern Illinois	63.61
84	Duke	63.49
85	Baylor	63.45
86	Temple	63.25
87	North Carolina St	63.03
88	Wyoming	62.52
89	Bowling Green	62.45
90	Jacksonville St	62.34
91	Northern Arizona	62.15
92	Louisiana-Lafayette	62.06
93	Syracuse	62.05
94	Texas A&M	61.90
95	Toledo	61.87
96	Northwestern	61.46
97	South Dakota St	61.37
98	Western Michigan	60.99
99	Delaware	60.60
100	Louisiana Tech	60.10
101	Central Florida	60.08
102	Massachusetts	59.87
103	Arkansas St	59.72
104	South Carolina St	59.32
105	San Diego St	59.29
106	Middle Tennessee St	59.18
107	San José St	58.91
108	Louisville	58.84
109	Buffalo	58.80
110	UTEP	58.49



111	Washington St	58.19
112	Maryland	57.51
113	New Hampshire	57.32
114	Elon	56.78
115	Cal Poly SLO	56.70
116	Weber St	56.67
117	Montana St	56.64
118	Illinois	56.55
119	Hawai'i	56.00
120	UNLV	55.84
121	UC-Davis	55.27
122	Florida Atlantic	55.27
123	Vanderbilt	55.11
124	Liberty	54.86
125	Alabama-Birmingham	54.81
126	Florida Int'l	54.54
127	Kent St	54.35
128	Akron	54.10
129	Central Arkansas	53.61
130	Eastern Washington	53.44
131	Lafayette	53.08
132	Tulane	52.98
133	Florida A&M	52.83
134	Utah St	52.63
135	Missouri St	52.55
136	North Dakota	52.37
137	Army	52.28
138	North Texas	51.41
139	McNeese St	50.96
140	Memphis	50.89
141	Youngstown St	50.47
142	James Madison	50.31
143	Appalachian St	50.01
144	New Mexico St	49.55
145	Eastern Illinois	49.40
146	Georgia Southern	49.38
147	Furman	49.28
148	Colgate	48.94
149	Hofstra	48.39
150	Eastern Kentucky	48.36
151	Miami OH	47.53
152	Prairie View A&M	47.39
153	Pennsylvania	46.89
154	Grambling St	46.65
155	Maine	46.64



156	Southern Utah	46.34
157	Holy Cross	46.15
158	South Dakota	46.12
159	Norfolk St	45.09
160	Harvard	44.81
161	Central Conn St	44.75
162	SE Louisiana St	44.57
163	Ball St	44.54
164	Chattanooga	44.53
165	Albany NY	44.50
166	Western Kentucky	43.89
167	Western Illinois	43.77
168	Texas St-San Marcos	43.74
169	Morgan St	43.57
170	Illinois St	43.43
171	Brown	43.31
172	Eastern Michigan	43.30
173	Portland St	43.20
174	New Mexico	43.15
175	Rice	43.13
176	Gardner-Webb	42.42
177	North Dakota St	42.26
178	Northern Colorado	41.84
179	Wofford	41.82
180	Stony Brook	41.60
181	Alabama A&M	41.30
182	Alcorn St	41.29
183	Columbia	41.15
184	Southern U.	40.62
185	Sacramento St	40.00
186	Samford	39.92
187	Coastal Carolina	39.62
188	Tennessee Tech	39.43
189	Delaware St	39.37
190	Towson	39.08
191	Sam Houston St	38.91
192	Yale	38.75
193	Fordham	37.69
194	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	37.00
195	The Citadel	36.90
196	Rhode Island	36.69
197	Tennessee St	36.18
198	Charleston Southern	36.05
199	Drake	35.63
200	Murray St	35.37



201	Cornell NY	34.85
202	Hampton	34.72
203	Northeastern	34.70
204	North Carolina A&T	34.61
205	Bethune-Cookman	34.13
206	Dayton	34.10
207	Monmouth NJ	33.19
208	Tennessee-Martin	32.77
209	Northwestern St	31.95
210	Texas Southern	31.94
211	VMI	31.65
212	Jackson St	31.33
213	Bryant	30.94
214	Western Carolina	30.57
215	Idaho St	30.56
216	Butler	30.55
217	Lehigh	30.25
218	Austin Peay	30.12
219	Indiana St	29.90
220	Nicholls St	29.84
221	Wagner	29.76
222	Howard	29.02
223	Old Dominion	28.79
224	San Diego	27.80
225	Winston-Salem St	27.71
226	Dartmouth	27.13
227	Bucknell	26.44
228	SE Missouri St	26.26
229	Princeton	25.71
230	Duquesne	25.14
231	Marist	24.60
232	Alabama St	24.02
233	Mississippi Valley St	23.96
234	Jacksonville FL	23.48
235	Sacred Heart	22.91
236	St Francis PA	22.25
237	North Carolina Central	22.12
238	Robert Morris	20.75
239	Presbyterian	20.65
240	Georgetown DC	20.43
241	Davidson	19.83
242	Savannah St	13.69
243	Morehead St	11.06
244	Valparaiso	10.00
245	Campbell	8.13

