

the LINE



Notre Dame's LAME STATS: This is one of the Four Best Teams???
How about not even a TOP TEN Team in ANY of these categories!

Passing Yards/Game - 266 (29th)

Rushing Yards/Game - 190 (49th)

Passing Yards Allowed/Game - 198 (34th)

Rushing Yards Allowed/Game - 134 (31st)

Points For - 34 (33rd)

Points Against - 17 (11th)

The Week that was: How **the LINE** fared in Week 13

Pickin' Winners

Week 13's Record, **17-3 (85% correct)**

For the Season, **208-52 (80% correct)**

Give or Take?

where the goal is to be 50/50

In Week 13, you were a bit better off giving the points & picking the Favorite (12 games, 60%) versus taking the points & choosing the Underdog (8 games, 40%); but statistically, that's 50/50.

For the Season: You would have been better off giving the points & picking the Favorite (139 games, 54%) versus taking the points & choosing the Underdog (120 games, 46%)—also not statistically different from 50/50.

the LINE's Closest Calls from Week 13

Game	the LINE sed	Actual Outcome
#7 LSU at #22 Texas A&M	A&M by 2 ½	A&M by 2
#6 Oklahoma at #13 West Virginia	Sooners by 2	Sooners by 3
Arizona State at Arizona	Sun Devils by 2 ½	Sun Devils by 1
Purdue at Indiana	Boilers by 4	Boilers by 7
#3 Notre Shame at [now 5-7] USC	Faux Irish by 10 ½	Faux Irish by 7
South Carolina at #2 Clemson	Dabo's Boys by 25 ½	Dabo's Boys by 21
#21 Utah State at #23 Boise State	Blue Wave, 33-30	Blue Wave, 33-24

It's the last College Football Playoff Committee (CFPC) rankings before the only one that matters, so it's time for another episode of:

The Under-Ranked and the Over-Ranked

the LINE speaks the Truth!

The CFPC continues to hedge their bets, with teams playing in championship games more likely to be over-ranked (UCF, Texas, Northwestern) . . . in case they win, or so they can bolster the case for the winner. Plus they're jockeying (gerrymandering?) some other teams (like Kentucky, Florida, Syracuse, LSU), perhaps to make it plausibly justifiable for them to play in one of the New Year's Six bowls. And for the conspiracy theorist: Having Syracuse and Northwestern ranked at all provides some cover for the inflated Flag Beggars of Notre Dame.

Without further ado, here is **the LINE's** latest quantitative take on which teams are the Most Under-Ranked and the Most Over-Ranked in this week's **CFPC Rankings**. *Oh look: #3 Our Lady of the Perpetual Brand Halo is still one of the most over-ranked in the FBS!*

THE MOST UNDER-RANKED		THE MOST OVER-RANKED	
unranked	Iowa	#8	Central Florida
#18	Mississippi State	#15	Kentucky
#24	Missouri	#9	Florida
unranked	Auburn	#14	Texas
#16	West Virginia	#20	Syracuse
		#3	Notre Dame
		#10	LSU
		#21	Northwestern

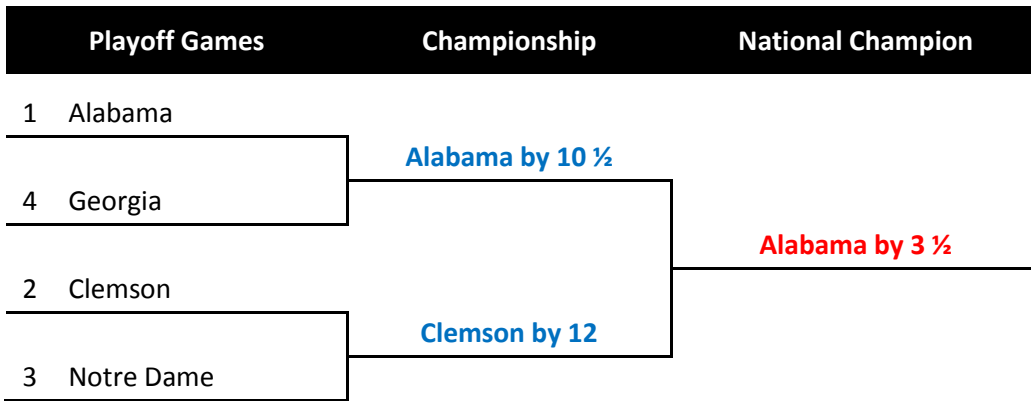
The Under-Ranked - Iowa, Mississippi State and Auburn are still under-ranked, just like they were 2 weeks ago; West Virginia was penalized too much for their back-to-back losses to the two Oklahoma schools; and Missouri, on a 4-game win streak, was not rewarded enough. The CFPC has corrected their previous under-ranking of now #25 Fresno State (battling to be conference champs), #19 TAMU and #11 Washington (in the Pac-12 championship).

The Over-Ranked - Just like 2 weeks ago, UCF, Kentucky, Florida, Syracuse (even after their fall)—**and naturally Notre Dame**—remain over-ranked. Texas, Northwestern and LSU are newly over-ranked, while #23 Iowa State (who won 6 of their last 7 games) and #13 Washington State (who lost the Apple Cup) are about right now.

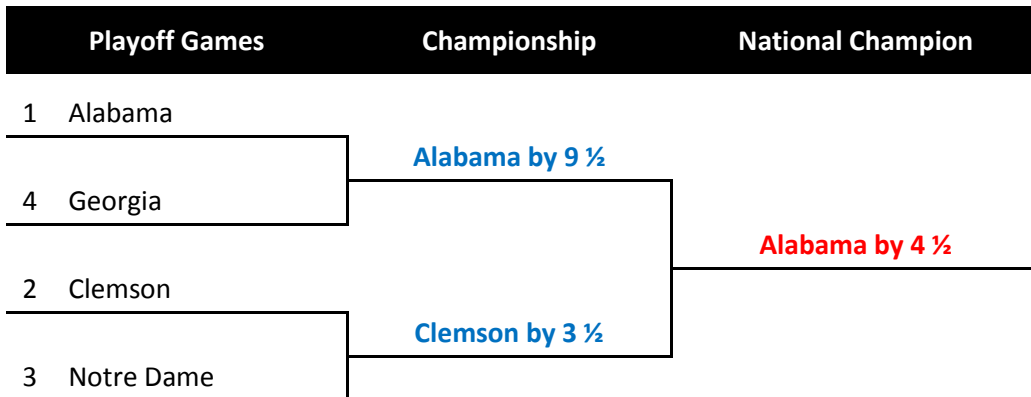
Who's in This Week, and Who Should Win

How would this week's CFPC Final Four play out if the playoffs began this weekend? Here are two takes on that, one based on the entire Season to date ("body of work") and the other based on how these teams are playing recently ("Who's hot?"):

Based on the Season to Date



Based More Heavily on Recent Play



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The Week that will be: Predictions for Week 13

College Football Playoff Rankings ^ HOME team in CAPS ^ Central Times ^ SATURDAY unless noted

- **More November MAction in the MAC CHAMPIONSHIP from Detroit, MI; computers and Vegas disagree on the winner:** buffalo Soldiers over the northern illinois Exposed by TWO POINTS, 26-24 ~ FRIDAY 6:00 PM ESPN2
- **Top 20 Clash for the PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP from Santa Clara, CA [Washington won first meeting by 14]:** #11 "How do you like them apples?" washington over #17 utah First Timers by 4, 24-20 ~ FRIDAY 7:00 PM FOX
- **Top 15 Red River Redo - the BIG-12 CHAMPIONSHIP from Arlington, VA [Texas won first meeting by 3]:** #5 Seeking Vengeance oklahoma over #14 Here We Go Again texas by 8, 38-30 ~ 11:00 AM ABC
- Desperate for a Game IOWA STATE over the Hotline Bling of drake by 45, 48-3 ~ 11:00 AM Local/FOX Regional/WhoKnows?
- **The SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIP [App State won first meeting by 10]:** The APPALACHIAN STATE Anointed over The Laughs are on Us louisiana-lafayette by 18, 37-19 ~ 11:00 AM ESPN
- Slip Sliding into a Bowl VIRGINIA TECH over the marshall Unheard by 5, 28-23 ~ 11:00 AM Local/ACC Network
- Happy to Find a Partner SOUTH CAROLINA over Last Game for Coach Bowden? akron by 28 1/2, 42-13 ~ 11:00 AM SEC Network
- *We traded West Virginia for these guys!* NC STATE over the east carolina Pillaged by 24 1/2, 42-17 ~ 11:00 AM Local/ACC Network
- **CONFERENCE USA CHAMPIONSHIP [MTSU won first meeting by 24—last week]:** The MIDDLE Matters TENNESSEE over “uab stars in their own version of Groundhog Day” by ONE AND A HALF POINTS, 24-23 ~ 12:30 PM CBS Sports Network

- **Both teams are 7-4 overall:** The stanford Stand-Up Guys over the Smokey Bears of CALIFORNIA by 4, 27-23 ~ 2:00 PM PAC-12 Network
- **The AMERICAN ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP [UCF won the first meeting by ONE POINT]:** #8 Leader-Less CENTRAL FLORIDA over Motivated memphis by 6, 34-28 ~ 2:30 PM ABC
- **Top 4 Cage Match, a Re-Match of the National Championship - It's the SEC CHAMPIONSHIP / PLAYOFF QUARTERFINAL (*that's nothing new of course, but isn't this game all that and more?*) from Atlanta, GA:** #1 From Start to Finish alabama over #4 Cage the Elephant georgia by 12, 35-23 ~ 3:00 PM CBS
- **Top 25 Action for the MOUNTAIN WEST CHAMPIONSHIP [Boise State won the first meeting by 7]; computers and Vegas disagree on the winner:** #22 BOISE STATE Blue Xmas over #25 Sic 'Em! fresno state by ONE AND A HALF POINTS, 27-26 ~ 6:45 PM ESPN
- **ATLANTIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIP (ahem, WALKOVER) from Charlotte, NC:** The #2 clemson Pizza Face over Dazed & Confused [& unranked] pittsburgh by 27, 41-14 ~ 7:00 PM ABC
- **Top 25 Contest (on paper, that is) - it's the small10 CHAMPIONSHIP from Indianapolis, IN:** The #6 ohio state Displaced Auto Workers over the #21 northwestern Future CEOs by 14 1/2, 37-23 ~ 7:00 PM FOX

And now for the true connoisseur—from the Second Round in the FCS Playoffs, here are games for the Top 4 Seeds + 1:

- The James Madison Dukes of Ellington over the FCS #8 COLGATE Raiders of the Lost Ark by 6 1/2, 24-17 ~ 12:00 PM ESPN3
- The FCS #4 KENNESAW STATE Tootsie Pop Owls over the Wofford Rat Terriers by 9, 30-21 ~ 1:00 PM ESPN3
- The FCS #1 NORTH DAKOTA STATE Bison Jerky over the Montana State Bob-Tailed by 28 1/2, 38-10 ~ 2:00 PM ESPN3
- The FCS #2 WEBER STATE Feral Felines over the Southeast Missouri State Redman Chaw by 11, 31-20 ~ 3:00 PM ESPN3
- FCS #3 "Fly Like an Eagle" EASTERN WASHINGTON over Finger-Lickin' Good Nicholls by 19, 38-19 ~ 4:00 PM ESPN3

+ ciao 4 now,
randy