

The

# 2019

## College Football Win Totals Report



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You want to predict the 2019 college football season with accuracy. Any edge for win totals or point spreads will help.

However, college football predictions seem so hard. A fumble can swing a game depending on whether it bounces into the hands of a defender or squirts out of bounds.

Also, the game depends on the erratic behavior of 18 to 22 year old boys, not to mention the supposedly grown men that coach them.

Despite this randomness, college football has one feature that makes for accurate preseason predictions:

**Teams tend to persist from year to year.**

Alabama has money, a winning tradition and the recruiting prowess of Nick Saban. They're never in danger of swapping places with Rice, a program with none of these resources.

Due to this persistence, I use recent team performance to project the 2019 season. Based on linear regression, the model considers 4 years of team performance, turnovers and returning starters.

Last year, I explained the basic ideas behind regression and this model through pictures. The article also explains why some

predictions are more difficult to make than others. To check out this manifesto, click [here](#).

Over the past 5 seasons, the model has predicted the winner in over 70% of games straight up (2560-1090). This rate covers only FBS vs FBS games, which excludes the easier to predict cupcake games against lower division opponents.

What does the model say about 2019? It has Clemson and Alabama at the top in both rankings and win totals. That's about as obvious as my iPhone making an autocorrect from Saban to Satan.

The numbers get more interesting after these two top contenders. This report gives you a preseason rank and projected win total for all 130 FBS teams.

Is this model perfect? Not by any stretch. If you think West Virginia should be lower due to the loss of QB Will Grier, I won't argue. The model treats Grier like any other starter from last year's team.

And Texas fans should stop reading right now and get a refund on the purchase price.

For everyone else, the remainder of the report gives my preseason predictions for teams by conference.

- The first number gives a team's rank by my preseason model.
- The number after the team name is the rating, or an expected margin of victory against an average FBS team on a neutral site. This comes from the preseason model.
- The last number is the projected win total, which accounts for a team's schedule.

Let these numbers give you an objective baseline to start your analysis of the 2019 college football season.

## Southeastern

- 2: Alabama, 24.9 rating, 10.7 wins.
- 3: LSU, 17.8 rating, 9.3 wins.
- 5: Georgia, 16.4 rating, 9.1 wins.
- 9: Auburn, 12.2 rating, 7.5 wins.
- 10: Texas A&M, 11.9 rating, 7.2 wins.
- 11: Florida, 11.2 rating, 7.6 wins.
- 16: Mississippi State, 9.2 rating, 7.2 wins.
- 17: Missouri, 9.0 rating, 7.9 wins.
- 28: South Carolina, 6.8 rating, 5.3 wins.
- 29: Tennessee, 6.7 rating, 6.5 wins.

31: Kentucky, 6.6 rating, 7.2 wins.  
51: Mississippi, 4.0 rating, 5.8 wins.  
56: Vanderbilt, 3.1 rating, 5.5 wins.  
78: Arkansas, -1.6 rating, 4.8 wins.

## Big Ten

7: Ohio State, 15.3 rating, 9.5 wins.  
8: Michigan, 14.0 rating, 8.9 wins.  
13: Michigan State, 10.3 rating, 8.1 wins.  
15: Penn State, 9.9 rating, 7.9 wins.  
23: Minnesota, 7.0 rating, 7.7 wins.  
25: Wisconsin, 6.9 rating, 7.1 wins.  
27: Iowa, 6.8 rating, 7.1 wins.  
39: Northwestern, 5.1 rating, 6.7 wins.  
46: Purdue, 4.7 rating, 6.7 wins.  
52: Nebraska, 3.8 rating, 6.6 wins.  
59: Indiana, 2.3 rating, 6.1 wins.  
76: Maryland, -1.5 rating, 4.1 wins.  
85: Illinois, -3.3 rating, 4.7 wins.  
105: Rutgers, -7.8 rating, 3.4 wins.

## Big 12

- 4: Oklahoma, 16.5 rating, 9.8 wins.
- 14: Iowa State, 10.1 rating, 7.9 wins.
- 21: Oklahoma State, 7.9 rating, 7.6 wins.
- 24: Baylor, 7.0 rating, 7.8 wins.
- 32: West Virginia, 6.5 rating, 6.5 wins.
- 41: TCU, 5.0 rating, 6.4 wins.
- 42: Texas, 5.0 rating, 6.3 wins.
- 43: Texas Tech, 4.9 rating, 6.6 wins.
- 57: Kansas State, 3.0 rating, 5.9 wins.
- 104: Kansas, -7.6 rating, 3.1 wins.

## Atlantic Coast

- 1: Clemson, 27.6 rating, 11.3 wins.
- 12: Syracuse, 10.7 rating, 8.5 wins.
- 33: Virginia, 6.4 rating, 7.7 wins.
- 34: Duke, 5.8 rating, 6.4 wins.
- 36: Florida State, 5.7 rating, 6.8 wins.
- 37: Virginia Tech, 5.5 rating, 7.5 wins.
- 38: Pittsburgh, 5.3 rating, 6.7 wins.

- 48: Miami (FL), 4.3 rating, 6.9 wins.
- 49: North Carolina State, 4.2 rating, 6.8 wins.
- 50: North Carolina, 4.2 rating, 5.9 wins.
- 64: Georgia Tech, 0.2 rating, 4.7 wins.
- 66: Wake Forest, -0.1 rating, 5.6 wins.
- 69: Boston College, -0.6 rating, 5.1 wins.
- 75: Louisville, -1.4 rating, 4.2 wins.

## **Pac-12**

- 18: Washington State, 8.6 rating, 8.3 wins.
- 19: Utah, 8.6 rating, 8.5 wins.
- 20: Oregon, 8.1 rating, 8.1 wins.
- 30: Washington, 6.6 rating, 7.8 wins.
- 40: UCLA, 5.0 rating, 6.6 wins.
- 44: Arizona State, 4.8 rating, 7.3 wins.
- 47: Stanford, 4.4 rating, 6.3 wins.
- 55: USC, 3.1 rating, 5.6 wins.
- 61: Arizona, 0.6 rating, 5.6 wins.
- 68: California, -0.6 rating, 5.0 wins.
- 83: Colorado, -2.8 rating, 4.2 wins.
- 101: Oregon State, -7.1 rating, 3.0 wins.

## Independents

6: Notre Dame, 15.3 rating, 9.4 wins.

45: Brigham Young, 4.8 rating, 7.7 wins.

60: Army, 1.2 rating, 9.5 wins.

116: Liberty, -11.4 rating, 5.5 wins.

126: Massachusetts, -17.2 rating, 3.4 wins.

129: New Mexico State, -18.3 rating, 3.0 wins.

## American Athletic Conference

22: UCF, 7.8 rating, 9.0 wins.

53: Temple, 3.4 rating, 8.3 wins.

54: Cincinnati, 3.4 rating, 7.1 wins.

58: Memphis, 2.6 rating, 8.1 wins.

62: Houston, 0.5 rating, 6.8 wins.

79: South Florida, -1.8 rating, 6.1 wins.

87: SMU, -4.4 rating, 5.6 wins.

90: Tulsa, -4.7 rating, 5.0 wins.

100: Tulane, -6.7 rating, 4.7 wins.

102: Navy, -7.3 rating, 5.0 wins.



107: East Carolina, -8.1 rating, 5.4 wins.

119: Connecticut, -13.2 rating, 3.7 wins.

## **Mountain West**

35: Boise State, 5.8 rating, 9.1 wins.

63: Air Force, 0.2 rating, 7.7 wins.

65: Utah State, 0.2 rating, 6.9 wins.

71: Fresno State, -0.7 rating, 7.6 wins.

84: San Diego State, -3.1 rating, 7.0 wins.

86: Hawaii, -3.3 rating, 7.1 wins.

108: Nevada, -8.2 rating, 5.4 wins.

109: Wyoming, -8.9 rating, 5.1 wins.

113: Colorado State, -10.2 rating, 4.2 wins.

115: San Jose State, -11.2 rating, 4.2 wins.

118: UNLV, -12.5 rating, 3.8 wins.

122: New Mexico, -14.9 rating, 3.7 wins.

## **Mid-American**

74: Ohio, -1.3 rating, 7.7 wins.

77: Western Michigan, -1.6 rating, 7.0 wins.  
80: Northern Illinois, -2.2 rating, 6.1 wins.  
81: Toledo, -2.3 rating, 7.3 wins.  
92: Ball State, -5.5 rating, 6.0 wins.  
96: Eastern Michigan, -6.6 rating, 5.9 wins.  
103: Miami (OH), -7.4 rating, 5.2 wins.  
106: Buffalo, -7.9 rating, 5.9 wins.  
111: Central Michigan, -9.5 rating, 5.2 wins.  
114: Akron, -11.1 rating, 4.7 wins.  
120: Kent State, -13.4 rating, 3.3 wins.  
121: Bowling Green, -13.5 rating, 4.0 wins.

## Sun Belt

26: Appalachian State, 6.8 rating, 9.5 wins.  
67: Georgia Southern, -0.4 rating, 7.2 wins.  
73: Troy, -1.2 rating, 7.5 wins.  
91: Arkansas State, -4.7 rating, 6.7 wins.  
97: Louisiana Monroe, -6.6 rating, 5.5 wins.  
98: Louisiana, -6.7 rating, 5.8 wins.  
110: Texas State, -9.0 rating, 4.9 wins.  
112: Coastal Carolina, -9.6 rating, 5.4 wins.  
117: Georgia State, -11.6 rating, 3.7 wins.

124: South Alabama, -15.6 rating, 3.0 wins.

## Conference USA

70: Southern Miss, -0.7 rating, 7.4 wins.

72: UAB, -1.0 rating, 8.6 wins. (model not as strong since UAB didn't play in 2015, 2016)

82: Marshall, -2.7 rating, 7.5 wins.

88: Middle Tennessee, -4.5 rating, 6.4 wins.

89: Florida International, -4.5 rating, 7.4 wins.

93: Western Kentucky, -5.5 rating, 6.2 wins.

94: North Texas, -5.7 rating, 6.8 wins.

95: Florida Atlantic, -6.1 rating, 6.1 wins.

99: Louisiana Tech, -6.7 rating, 7.0 wins.

123: Charlotte, -14.9 rating, 4.2 wins.

125: UTSA, -16.6 rating, 3.6 wins.

127: Old Dominion, -17.4 rating, 3.4 wins.

128: Rice, -18.2 rating, 2.2 wins.

130: UTEP, -20.5 rating, 3.5 wins.

## Get more predictive analytics from The Power Rank

Later this preseason, I'll add my market model to these college football preseason rankings. These numbers take market win totals for all 130 teams and back out rating for each team.

I started performing these market calculations last season. Combining them with the regression model in this report made for more accurate spread predictions.

Members of The Power Rank will have access to this preseason model as well as my best spread predictions all season. A membership also includes NFL predictions and analytics.

To learn more about a membership and the accuracy of my predictions, click [here](#):

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