

1046-N1-1217 **Erich Kreutzer*** (erkreutzer@davidson.edu). *How fair are BCS ratings? Analysis of Colley Methods for Sports Ranking.*

The Bowl Championship Series (BCS) was formed in 1998 in an attempt to rank NCAA Division I college football teams. These rankings decide who plays in five prestigious end of the year bowl games. The rankings are composed of two parts human and one part computer rankings. Computer rankings come from an average of 6 different methods including a Colley method for ranking sports teams. When originally conceived this method consisted of a slight modification to the standard winning percentage formula. The Colley Matrix method stems from the standard Colley method, but includes a minor abstraction that results in a linear system that clearly incorporates the notion of strength of schedule. This talk will compare the two Colley methods by analyzing Division I NCAA college football data from the 2007 season. (Received September 15, 2008)