A few observations from the current Pointwise Sports Issue

* Pointwise doesn’t offer a “Prophecy” statement on the Oklahoma State – South Dakota State game. (Probably due to S. Dak. State being an FCS team). The Cowboys, a 9 ½ point favorite have an opening Power Rating of 51 with a 4 pt Home Field Advantage rating. They are playing a very good Jackrabbit team that has a 29-game winning streak.
* It is somewhat surprising to find that Pointwise has Penn State as “Key Release” to beat the 8 ½ point spread against West Virginia. Some think this West Virginia team will compete for the BIG XII Championship.
* I pick Penn State to win the game but, feel the Mountaineers will beat the spread.
* It is also a little surprising to see Georgia beating Clemson handily (The Bulldogs are a 13 ½ point favorite and I feel this spread will be very close to the difference at the end of the game).
* Pointwise picks the Florida Gators over Miami-Florida by a score of 34-31. The Gators initial Power Rating is 48 while the Hurricane’s initial rating is 54. However, the game is at Florida so the Pointwise pick is realistic.

* As for the Initial Power Ratings Pointwise has assigned for each BIG XII team, Kansas has the top Conference rating at 52. Oklahoma State, Utah, Kansas State, and Iowa State have a rating of 51. The remaining teams’ ratings fall between 35-48.
* It appears Pointwise feels Georgia 67, Ohio State 65, Texas 64 and Oregon 63 are the 4 best teams in terms of Team Power Ratings.
* The game I am most interested in (other than the Oklahoma State – South Dakota State game) is Notre Dame at Texas A&M. The Aggies have a new coach (Mike Elko, head coach at Duke) and, surprisingly, have a better initial Team Power Rating of 59 (ND’s Power Rating is 57). The game is at A&M (3 pt. favorite) and Pointwise predicts a slight “upset” with a score of ND 38 A&M 31.