Bias in the College Football Coaches Poll:
Are Coaches Pulling Up Their Teams by Their Bootstraps?

Presented by Dr. Chuck Wessell

Each season, about half of the coaches in the NCAA’s Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) cast ballots in the Coaches Poll. These ballots are used to rank the top 25 football teams in the country and are widely discussed among college football fans. Do coaches who vote in this poll show favoritism to their own team? Do they display bias towards other teams in their conference? Against teams from other conferences?

Since 2007 each coach has had to release publicly their ballot for the pre-bowl game poll. We will use these ballots and the modern statistical technique of bootstrapping to answer these questions.