



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR  
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>Name(s)</b> <b>Kevin G. Mesrobian</b>	<b>Project Number</b>  22423
<b>Project Title</b> <b>Determining an Unbiased College Football Division 1A Ranking System</b>	
<b>Objectives/Goals</b> My objective is to determine if there is a fair and unbiased way to rank Division 1A college football teams by using an equation that considers objective measures of a college football team's performance. The goal is for an alternative way from the current system that places too much emphasis on opinion polls rather than objective measures. <b>Abstract</b> <b>Methods/Materials</b> I first determined the components of the formula. There were five categories of great importance for ranking criteria. These are a team's record, conference rank, strength of schedule, margin of victory and bonus points. I then determined the weight for each ranking criteria. I obtained text file containing the results of every 2001 Division 1A game played by all of the 117 teams. I inputted the data from text file into Microsoft Excel. I then calculated the points, in each of the five categories, for each team. I plugged the points into the total formula and ranked each team based upon the most points. Finally, I compared my ranking results to the BCS, ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll, and Associated Press Poll rankings. I used the computer, a spreadsheet, calculator, and the internet to conduct my experiment. <b>Results</b> My results showed that my top 10 teams were closely correlated to the Associated Press Poll, the USA Today/ESPN Coaches poll and the BCS rankings. Using my method this past season would have made a difference in who played in the national championship game. It should have been between Colorado and Miami, not Nebraska and Miami. <b>Conclusions/Discussion</b> In conclusion, I believe that my results have supported my hypothesis. I have developed a fair and unbiased equation that considers objective measures and by using this equation it is a better way to rank the top college football teams in the nation. I now have a better understanding of how to put formulas into Excel.	
<b>Summary Statement</b> My project is about creating an equation that when used will provide a fair and unbiased method of ranking the top college football teams in the nation.	
<b>Help Received</b> Mother cut letters out at school office, because you have to be older than 18 to use the machine.	