



PRINTERPAPER	PTA	9D	Class action group?	C
PRINTERPAPER	REP	29A	Omar of Minnesota, e.g.	O
PRINTERPAPER	IRE	61A	Lividness	L
PRINTERPAPER	NPR	10A	"Life Kit" aircr	L
UNASSAILABLY	USA	67D	E! alternative	E
UNASSAILABLY	NAB	53D	Get	G
UNASSAILABLY	AIL	14A	Eat nothing but ginger ale and saltines, perhaps	E
UNASSAILABLY	SLY	84A	Beguiling	B
CARBOLOADING	COD	64A	Oceanic taco ingredient	O
CARBOLOADING	ALI	16A	Wepner's 1975 opponent	W
CARBOLOADING	RON	30D	L. ___ Hubbard	L
CARBOLOADING	BAG	1A	Grocery carrier, often	G
STEREORECORD	SEC	38D	Agency created after the 1929 crash, for short	A
STEREORECORD	TOO	82A	#Me __ movement	M
STEREORECORD	ERR	86A	Erase something important, say	E
STEREORECORD	RED	19A	Scarlet	S

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES

Let's work through this puzzle step by step:

1. The grid has 4 x 12-letter across entries. Those look like they might be theme entries since they're longer than all of the other across entries. The next closest ones are only 8 letters.

2. The title "Count Off Into Teams" suggests that we need to find a way to divide the letters from the theme answers into smaller groups.

3. But how many? There's nothing to tell us how many groups to split the entries into. Splitting them into groups of two letters would be more accurately described as "pairs" instead of "teams", so that doesn't make much sense. That leaves us with the possibility of using groups of 3 letters, 4 letters, or 6 letters. We could do groups of 5, but that would leave some weird leftover letters, which would be a bit inelegant (and we know the constructor strives for elegance in his puzzles!)

4. Let's start with groups of 3. "Counting off" implies alternating letters, and to end up with groups of 3, that would require us to assign every fourth letter to the same team. So, with a twelve letter entry, our team assignments look like this: 1/2/3/4/1/2/3/4/1/2/3/4. If we do this for PRINTER PAPER, grouping all the 1s together gives us PTA, grouping all the 2s together gives us REP, the 3s yield IRE and the 4s yield NPR. (BTW, if you tried splitting the theme entries into groups of 4 or 5, you would've gotten gibberish).

5. AHA! Each of those 4 x 3-letter words appears elsewhere in the grid, so this must be the right track. Next, we should "count off" the other 3 theme entries to find the rest of the 3-letter words.

6. Finally, taking the first letter from each of the clues from the 16 resultant 3-letter entries (in order of their appearance within their original 12-letter entries) gives the meta answer: **COLLEGE BOWL GAMES**, which are indeed things in the news.