Differences between machine learning predictions and predictions a basic tool like Excel could produce:

* Complexity of Analysis: Machine learning algorithms can handle very complex patterns and relationships in the data. They can make predictions based on many variables interacting in complicated ways. Excel, on the other hand, is usually used for simpler analyses, like linear regression, which assumes a straight-line relationship between variables.
* Volume of Data: Machine learning can process vast amounts of data more efficiently. Excel might struggle or become very slow if you try to analyze thousands of rows with complex formulas or multiple steps.
* Automation and Learning: Machine learning algorithms can improve their predictions over time by learning from new data. In contrast, Excel analyses don't learn; you would have to manually adjust your models or formulas as new data comes in.
* Variety of Models: There are many types of machine learning models designed for different kinds of prediction problems. Excel has limited options for statistical models, and while you can do some advanced statistics in Excel, it's not as flexible or powerful as machine learning tools.
* Time Series Analysis: For time-based predictions like game rankings over weeks, machine learning models, especially those designed for time series forecasting, can take into account the sequence of data points. Excel can do some time series forecasting, but it's not as sophisticated and might not handle complex patterns well.
* Predictive Accuracy: Because machine learning models can become very sophisticated, they might make more accurate predictions than simpler Excel models, especially in situations where the relationships between data points are non-linear or complex.

While Excel can make predictions and is a great tool for basic analyses and visualizations, machine learning offers a much more powerful suite of algorithms capable of handling larger datasets, more complex relationships, and can improve over time as they learn from new data.