

Volume 39, Issue 11

October 29-November 4, 2024

*Marc's 5-Star NFL Game Of The Month: Eagles* +3 - WINNER

# NFL BEST BETS 5-1L6 UPSET GOW 5-0L5

## Marc's 10-Star November To Remember Is Here



• 'Betcha Didn't Know' Handicapping Article

- Awesome Angle and Tremendous Trends
- Incredible Stat of the Week
- Analysis on Every NFL and FBS College Game
- Best Bets and Key Plays
- Full Schedule with Opening Lines
- Kenny White's College & NFL Power Ratings
- Wise Guys Handicapping Contest



GET SMART GET PLAYBOOK

**GET EVERY EDGE IMAGINABLE** 

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## UPTIGHT -EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT

A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping

I'm a poor man's son, from across the railroad tracks Only shirt I own is hanging on my back But I'm the envy of every single guy Since I'm the apple of my girl's eye

ost people can relate to the lyrics listed in this article. I know that I can. It's what happens when you're raised in the projects, fall in love, and marry your high school sweetheart – a coal miner's daughter, no less.

Stevie Wonder can relate, too. After his debut smash hit "Fingertips" in 1966 at age 13, Lil Stevie hit a rough patch with his voice changing and was about to be released by Motown Records two years later. And then along came his careersaver, songwriter Sylvia Moy.

After playing several dates with the Rolling Stones on tour and being impressed with the British band, Wonder presented his ideas, finished or not. "He went through everything," remembered Moy, who desperately wanted to save his career. "I asked, 'Are you sure you have anything else?' He started singing and playing 'Everything is alright, uptight.' That was as much as he had. I said, 'That's it. Let's work with that.'"

The resulting song "Uptight (Everything's Alright)" features lyrics that depict a poor young man's appreciation for a rich girl's seeing beyond his poverty to his true worth.

On the day of the recording, Moy and her writing partner Henry Crosby had completed the lyrics but didn't have them in Braille for Wonder to read, so they sang the song to him as he was recording it. She sang ahead of him, and he repeated the lines as he heard them. Moy commented that "he never missed a beat" during the recording.

The song peaked at number 3 on the Billboard Pop Single chart in 1966, at the same time reaching the top of the Billboard R&B Singles chart for five weeks. From there, Lil' Stevie never looked back, nor did Motown Records. And speaking of never looking back...

PLAY ON any college football underdog from Game Seven out during the regular season if they were a bowl team last season and are coming off consecutive SU losses as a favorite and they arefacing a .750 or greater opponent off a SU and ATS win.

There is no need for these teams to get "uptight." That's because "everything's alright" with these crews as they've gone **31-11-1 ATS**. Better yet, if these same dogs allow fewer than 24 points per game they amp up to **16-3-1 ATS** since 2011. This week, the mad-as-hell **Kentucky Wildcats** will be looking to make everything alright when they visit Tennessee along with a triple revenge chip on their shoulders.

So the next time things begin to look like they are coming apart, remember the sage advice from Stevie Wonder, who said it best when he sang...

No football hero or smooth Don Juan Got empty pockets, you see I'm a poor man's son Can't give her the things that money can't buy But I'll never, never make my baby cry And it's all right, what I can't do Out of sight because my heart is true Everything is alright, uptight, clean out of sight

It's here, my most popular **10-Star NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER**, and I'm loading it up with my best offer ever – and it starts the day you join. You get...

My 10-Star College Football Game of the Year – my 5-Star College Football and 5-Star NFL Games of the Month – plus my College Football Revenge Play of the Year this Saturday – documented 15-4 since 2005 – are included along with every LTS Football release I make over the next FIVE WEEKS. The same package produced documented **net profits of** \$2,000 in the last two seasons.

There has never been a better time to join than now; we're right on the heels of **our 5-Star NFL Game of the Month winner** last week with the Eagles (+3) over the Bengals, 37-17 last week, and our 5-Star **CFB Game of the Month** two weeks ago with Georgia (+4.5) over Texas, 30-13 – both easy winners! It's a \$599 value – yet it's only \$399 – or less than the cost of one 4-Star winner alone – to all PLAYBOOK Newsletter readers! Sign up today at **PlaybookSports.com**, or call me tollfree at **800.321.7777** for fast, friendly service – you'll be glad you did!

Marc Lawrence





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**ATS** = Against The Spread • **A** = Away • **Con** = Conference • **D** = Dog F = Favorite • H = Home • Rev = Revenge • R = Road • SU = Straight-Up

#### College Football Games

#### NFL Games

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#### TEAMS **KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS**

TEAMS **KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS** 

#### Saturday, November 2

- Louisville 5-1 in 2nd of BB RG... 3-1 aft Bost Coll... 1-6 bef Week of Rest CLEMSON SERIES: 6-0 L6... 3-1 bef Va Tech... 1-3 Game 8... 1-3 L4 w/ rest Florida 6-1-1 w/ trip conf revenge... 1-5 away w/ rest... 2-6 Game 8 Georgia SERIES: 5-2 L7... 3-1 off SU dog win... 5-2 vs trip conf rev 9-2 vs doub rev... 3-1 in 2nd of BB RG... 4-2 vs undef conf opp Texas Tech IOWA STATE SERIES: 5-2 L7... 4-1 off SU win 3 < pts... 4-1 as conf HF's 8 > pts 4-0 aft Syracuse... 4-0 bef Virginia... 0-6 L6 as conf RD's Pittsburgh 7-2 as conf HF's 7 > pts... 3-1 home off BB RG... 1-4 Game 9 SMU SERIES: 2-0 L2...8-1 as RF's 7 > pts... 9-2-1 away L3Y Oregon MICHIGAN 4-0-1 L5 vs undef conf opp... 8-1 Game 9... 5-2 aft Mich St Texas A&M 6-1 bef Week of Rest... 1-4 away vs sing conf revenge **S CA**ROLINA SERIES: 2-0 L2... 4-1 w/ rest off SU win... 1-6 w/ sing conf rev 9-1 away aft score 21 < pts... 13-4-1 as conf RF's 7 < pts Ohio State
- PENN STATE 3-1-1 off conf road win 14 > pts... 1-6-1 as conf dogs 7 < pts



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#### IN' ON THE S ith Halloween in the rearview mirror,

it's on to the best time of the College

Football season - the month of November! That's because the combination of stats and angles brings us the best winning edges of the year. Our 'Puttin' On The Stats' theory is a dandy. Best of all, it's simple. And it wins.

What we're looking to do from this point of the season out is to 'Play On' any team as a dog if they've won all - or all but one - of their games in total yards ITS (In The Stats) season-to-date. Conversely, we will look to 'Play Against' any favorite that has lost all - or all but one - of their games in total yards ITS.

As we head into November and toward Thanksgiving, here's this year's list from our sister publication - the PLAYBOOK MIDWEEK ALERT of 'Play On' (as dog) and 'Play Against' (as favorite). As you can see, there are three times as many 'good dogs' as there are 'bad favorites. Important: an \*asterisk indicates the team is either 100% ITS, or 0% ITS this season. Hopefully, that will keep you howling between now 1 and the bowl games.

PLAY-ON AS DOGS: \*Army, \*Boise State, Clemson, Indiana, \*Iowa State, Kansas State, Liberty, LSU, Memphis, \*Miami Florida, Northern Illinois, Ohio State, \*Ole Miss, Oregon, \*Penn State, \*Syracuse, \*TCU, \*Texas, \*Texas State, \*Utah, \*Washington.

PLAY-AGAINST AS FAVORITES: Florida International, Florida State, \*Kennesaw State, Kent State, New Mexico State, Purdue, Stanford.

Remember: Once a 'good dog' loses the stats a second time in the season, or a 'bad favorite' wins the stats for the second time, they are immediately eliminated from the list. Of course, you can track their course in the weekly MIDWEEK ALERT Football Newsletter.

And to our surprise, the only team to appear on the "PLAY-ON" list for the second year in a row that was perfect ITS heading into November both last season and this year is Liberty!

To kick off the festivities this week, we find Penn State, Syracuse, TCU, and Washington as qualifying 'Play On' dogs, with Florida International from the 'Play Against' group.

There you have it. Pass the gravy and let the November feast begin!

| T | 'nι | Irs | d   | ay, | Octo | ber | 31 |  |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|----|--|
| - | ~   | ۰.  | 1.1 |     |      | C   |    |  |

| Houston                  | 7-0 aft div HG 3-1 aft Indy 1-4 nef Det 2-5 Thurs RG   |
|--------------------------|--|
| NY JETS                  | 4-1 bef non-conf RG 4-1 L5 vs AFC South 0-4 bef Arz  |
| New England<br>TENNESSEE | <b>Sunday, November 3</b><br>SERIES: 6-1 L7 3-1 in 1st of BB RG 1-3 aft div HG<br>0-3 aft Det 1-3 bef Chargers 3-6 as non-div HF's 5 < pts |
| La Chargers              | 1-4 as non-div RF's 4 < pts 14-1 L6 vs AFC North   |
| CLEVELAND                | SERIES: 2-0-1 L3 3-1 in 3rd straight HG 1-5 aft div HG   |
| New Orleans              | 6-2 bef Ariz 0-4 aft non-conf RG 1-4 in 2nd of BB RG   |
| CAROLINA                 | SERIES: Host 5-1-1 5-2 bef NYG 4-2-1 L7 as div HD's  |
| Miami<br>BUFFALO         | 5-1 L6 div RG 7-3 as dogs 5 > pts 2-5 aft non-conf HG SERIES: 3-0 L3 6-0 aft non-conf RG 1-3 as div HF's 7 < pts                           |
| Dallas                   | 5-0 aft SF 7-1 away in Domes 8-3 in 2nd of BB RG   |
| ATLANTA                  | SERIES: 4-2 L6 3 1-7 as non-div HF's 1-4 L5 vs NFC East  |
| Denver<br>BALTIMORE      | 7-1 as dogs 7 > pts 1-4 bef div RG 2-5 aft non-conf HG 4-1 aft Clev 6-2 bef div HG 1-7 as non-div HF's 7 > pt                              |
| Las Vegas<br>CINCINNATI  | 7-2 as non-div dogs 7 > pts 2-6 L8 vs AFC North SERIES: 6-0 L6 3-0 aft Phil 1-6 as non-div favs 7 > pts                                    |
| Indianapolis             | SERIES: 5-0 L5 4-1 aft div RG 4-1 in 2nd of BB RG  |
| MINNESOTA                | 6-2 aft score 20 < pts 1-8 as non-div favs > 4 pts   |
| Washington               | 5-1 L6 vs .300 < opp 2-8 bef non-conf HG 1-3 L4 div RG   |
| NY GIANTS                | SERIES: 4-1 L5 7-2 aft Monday gm 3-1 aft non-conf HG   |
| Chicago<br>ARIZONA       | 4-0 L4 vs NFC West 0-4 bef NEng 3-12 bef non-conf HG SERIES: 3-1 L4 5-1 in 1st of BB HG 0-5 L5 vs NFC North                                |
| La Rams                  | SERIES: 6-1 L7 4-1 L5 div RG 0-3 off home dog win  |
| SEATTLE                  | 9-1 vs opp off Thur gm 10-3 bef Bye 0-9-1 aft non-conf HG  |
| Detroit                  | SERIES: 4-1 L5 6-0 aft non-conf HG 7-1 L8 div RG   |
| GREEN BAY                | 4-1 bef Bye 6-2 L8 vs .850 > opp 0-4 vs sing div revenge   |
| Jacksonville             | 0-5 aftr GBay 1-6 L7 vs NFC East 1-6 L7 non-conf RG  |
| PHILADELPHIA             | SERIES: 4-0 L4 4-1-1 L6 non-conf HG 0-6 L6 vs .250 < opp   |
|                          | Monday November 4  |

#### Monday, November 4

| Tampa Bay | 3-0 aft Atl 3-0 aft div HG 6-2 bef SF 1-6 Mondays L7Y |
|-----------|---|
|           | SERIES: 3-1 L4 3-1 L4 vs NFC South 1-4 Mondays L4Y    |

#### **BYES: Pittsburgh Steelers, San Francisco 49ers**



#### **THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL - OCT 29-NOVEMBER 4**

Remember: You Have A PLAYBOOK BEST BET Whenever Our Predicted Margin Of Victory Is 6 Or More Points In Favor Of Your Line

#### NCAA FOOTBALL

#### Tuesday, October 29

#### New Mexico State over FIU by 3

It's not likely either of these teams will darken the door of a bowl game this season, but both need a win to keep alive post-season hopes slimmer than a European runway model. All you need to know about NMSU is that they have forced just three turnovers this year, leaving them -10 in the turnover margin. That may be great for carbhating Keto dieters, but it makes for lousy football. The Aggies are 0-3 on the road this year but have tasted success outside the desert in seven of their last ten road games. The Panthers benched QB Keyone Jenkins for poor play last Tuesday in a desultory loss at home, but Jenkins is likely to be in the shotgun for this one. FIU has gone **0-8 ATS** in the last eight games as the sportsbook team of record, and while the Aggies are living the Ruby Tuesday lifestyle, you will find FIU in the all-you-can-eat **SMART BOX**. Too many extra calories and too many extra points for the Golden Panthers to carry.

#### SAM HOUSTON over Louisiana Tech by 1

The Techsters have grabbed two of their last three, and there is a little extra Louisiana Tech hot sauce in this matchup. La Tech lost last year to Sam Houston as a 7.5-point favorite, losing by 15 despite outgaining the Bearkats by 100 yards. Keep an eye out for Sam Houston QB Hunter Watson's probable return – he missed last week, and it showed. Give the Bearkats credit; in just their third season as an FBS program, the 6-2 / 3-1 Kats are fighting for a conference title, but (you knew that was coming) Sam Houston is about as effective as Yosemite Sam when you make the Bearkats favored, just 1-3 ATS as conference home favorites since 2022. That, combined with Tech being **8-1 ATS** with revenge coming off back-to-back losses vs. teams with at least one loss staples it shut.

#### TEXAS STATE over Louisiana by 10

The university formerly known as UL-Lafayette may well be 6-1/3-0, but under Coach Michael Desormeaux, they are **2-7 SU and 1-8 ATS** when coming off a win, including a depressing 0-3 SUATS from Game Eight on. Meanwhile, back on San Marcos Ranch, Texas State's reputation for getting revenge is well-earned. The Bobcats are **4-0 SUATS** (3-0 this year), and **2-0 SUATS** as a home favorite under G.J. Kinne when coming off a home favorite loss with an average win margin of 20. The Bobcats are also in a special place with nine other FBS teams, as they are winning the stats battle in each game so far this season. Look for the Bobcats to emulate The Stranger from "High Plains Drifter."

#### Wednesday, October 30

#### Jacksonville State over LIBERTY by 3

The Flames were liberated from an undefeated season in one of this year's biggest upsets when Kennesaw State stunned LU by 3. Liberty was a 27-point favorite, and that immediately placed them in our "Bubble Burst" handcuffs. The Flames are 10-2 ATS as the favorite against a team that was favored in its last game, but this is a way better Jacksonville State team than the 0-3 SUATS bunch we were making fun of in previous issues. Suddenly, Rich Rod's team has rammed the rod down the throats of four straight teams, including a 400-plus yards rushing performance last week. That's in line with an average +236 yards per game edge for JSU, and we're counting on a hot Cocks team burning the Flames.

#### WESTERN KENTUCKY over Kennesaw State by 28

KSU will answer the age-old question posed by the Alan Parsons Project, "Where Do We Go from Here?" Or maybe we quote Neil Young, "It's better to burn out than fade away."? The bottom line is we expect a rather dramatic crash, boom, bang by the Owls against an always solid WKU bunch, once again fighting for conference superiority. Caden Veltkamp accounted for four scores last week, and the WKU QB has helped his team to a 4-0 SUATS mark with an average winning margin of 15, better than the spread. Kennesaw is 1-6 and is 0-7 In the Stats by -158 yards per game. Hell froze over last week, but in the age of climate change, the ice has already melted like an ice cream cake at a 6-year-old's birthday party.

#### Thursday, October 31

#### Tulane over CHARLOTTE by 11

The Green Wave is fighting the Army and the Navy for the high ground and the high seas in the American, all three unbeaten in conference play. QB Darian Mensah has been one of the AAC's best, thanks to a 15:3 TD/INT ratio, while RB Makhi Hughes rushed for 195 yards vs. North Texas last week and has 931 yards this season. Charlotte outgained Navy two weeks ago and held the Mids to a season-low 291 yards but couldn't pull off the upset then or vs. Memphis last week. The 49ers had the lead until giving up the losing score with 31 seconds left. Both teams may not be at their emotional peak for this one, and we offer this advice to rescue your bank balance: Tulane is 4-16 SU and 6-14 ATS away when coming off a road win. The Green Wave locked down a third straight bowl season, and the prospects of a letdown against the Niners are enough to point our Geiger counters in a different direction.

#### Friday, November 1

#### CONNECTICUT over Georgia State by 3

One more win, and UConn hits the lanes for rental shoes, pretzel bites, and Brooklyn strikes. One team is in a position they're accustomed to; the other isn't. Georgia State will limp into town on a four-game losing streak on the scoreboard, and in the stats, with the win over Vanderbilt, it will be just photographs and memories. However, in the handicapping business, even the sentimental brilliance of the late Jim Croce must be ignored. The numbers cannot: The Panthers are 35-19-3 ATS as a road dog since joining FBS, while the Huskies are a shaky **2-10 ATS** coming off a win against a team coming off a loss. A few more briquettes for the grill show UConn often gets barbecued when a home favorite against a team coming off a loss, 9-18-1 ATS all time and **1-9-1 ATS** in the last 11. Thank you for your time; you've been so much more than kind, but we're not operating on this game.

#### South Florida over FLORIDA ATLANTIC by 6

The Bulls have tantalized and teased their fans with stretches of great football against top teams. USF held down Alabama, Miami and Memphis but couldn't get the three count and lost. The nation's worst defense last year is giving up 94 fewer yards per game in 2024, but offensively, since the loss of QB Byrum Brown, it's been bad. Bad would be a gentle way to describe the Owls' season; not even a big-name hire in Tom Herman is helping bring FAU to prominence. The

#### 2024 COLLEGE FOOTBALL CURRENT AP POLL

| First Place votes in pa | renthesi | s, followed by total poi | nts. |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------------------|------|
| 1. Oregon (8-0) (61)    | 1,549    | 14. Alabama (6-2)        | 706  |
| 2. Georgia (6-1) (1)    | 1,467    | 15. Boise St (6-1)       | 619  |
| 3. Penn St (7-0)        | 1,417    | 16. LSU (6-2)            | 577  |
| 4. Ohio St (6-1)        | 1,324    | 17. Kansas St (7-1)      | 571  |
| 5. Miami FL (8-0)       | 1,283    | 18. Pittsburgh (7-0)     | 570  |
| 6. Texas (7-1)          | 1,276    | 19. Ole Miss (6-2)       | 471  |
| 7. Tennessee (6-1)      | 1,081    | 20. SMU (7-1)            | 400  |
| 8. Notre Dame (7-1)     | 1,000    | 21. Army (7-0)           | 312  |
| 9. BYU (8-0)            | 995      | 22. Wash St (7-1)        | 220  |
| 10. Texas A&M (7-1)     | 972      | 23. Colorado (6-2)       | 152  |
| 11. Clemson (6-1)       | 968      | 24. Illinois (6-2)       | 113  |
| 11. Iowa State (7-0)    | 968      | 25. Missouri (6-2)       | 44   |
| 13. Indiana (8-0)       | 952      | 9 others receiving vote  | s    |



2-5 / 0-3 Wise Birds are flightless **1-8 ATS** coming off a road game against a team coming off a home game. Da' Bulls are coming off slumber and are **7-1 ATS** coming off rest. Toss in 15-3 SU as a road favorite to make matters worse for the home Owls. FAU QB Cam Fancher has been battling painful turf toe but should be available. Make sure you check before dipping your toe in the water.

#### BOISE STATE over San Diego State by 19

You know it's a Heisman-worthy season when RB Ashton Jeanty runs for 128 against a good UNLV team, and it's called an "off game". Like nearly everyone who spends a night in Las Vegas, Boise State is worse for wear, going 1-3 ATS AV (After Vegas). The Broncos are also surprising 2-6 ATS at home vs. double revenge, and if our enthusiasm isn't curbed enough, the Smurf Turfers are **2-10-1 ATS** as a favorite of 20 or more against teams coming off a SU underdog win. Toss in SDSU's 4-1 ATS record with double revenge and efficient **5-0 ATS** as a conference underdog of 14 or more. The Aztecs pile on with 3-1 ATS in the last four games against the Broncos, including a narrow home loss to Boise last year. It's a massive upset if San Diego State wins, but not one if they slipstream the spread.

#### Saturday, November 2

#### SYRACUSE over Virginia Tech by 6

Orange QB Kyle McCord has been so good this year that even in a horrible five-interception performance in a 28-point loss vs. Pitt, he reset three Syracuse passing records. Pitt returned three of those picks for scores...in the first half! The former Ohio State signal caller will be delighted to welcome back star TE Oronde Gadsden II from injury. Tech is on a three-game win streak and should put up a decent fight, but their Racing Form indicates "tires late" as the Hokies are **2-12 ATS** in Game 9 plus a weak **1-6 ATS** when coming off consecutive wins as a favorite. The Dome has been surrounded by **THE SMART BOX** "**Puttin' on the Stats."** Example: The Cuse is one of the Precious ten that has won the stat battle in every game, plus Syracuse is **3-0 SUATS** at home when returning from a three-game road trip while taking on a team coming off a SUATS win. We can't see why McCord won't make it a record eight straight 300-yard passing games, especially with his favorite target available again.

#### CLEMSON over Louisville by 8

The 11th-ranked Tigers are one of four conference unbeaten wristwrestling for the top spot in the ACC, along with Miami, Pitt, and SMU. The opening day loss to Georgia feels like it was two years instead of two months ago, thanks to QB Cade Klubnik coming into great form, 20 TD passes, and just three picks. The Tigers are 6-0 ATS in this series in the last six games, but the Cardinals counter with **5-1 ATS** in the second of back-to-back road games plus 3-1 ATS in Game 9. Clemson has been vulnerable defensively, and UL Coach Jeff Brohm is 67-10 ATS in games where his team racks up 30 or more. The Tigers

NOTE: Home team is shown in ALL CAPS. PLAYBOOK selection is **Underlined and Bold.** Should we pass or not have a strong opinion on a game, neither team will be bolded. are 8-13-1 ATS when they are a double-digit favorite against teams coming off three or more ATS losses. Dabo Sweeney called Lou-ahvul's offense the best he's seen since Georgia, and we all know how that turned out. We hope you have a happy ending if you reach into the valley of your money clip.

#### APPALACHIAN STATE over Old Dominion by 8

Most importantly, public schools are back open in the Asheville, North Carolina area after the devastation of Helene and, hopefully, Kidd-Brewer Stadium, and these two teams will provide an entertaining distraction. ODU has sprinted into a tie for first in the Sun Belt East thanks to a three-game win streak, and that, given that the Mountaineers are having an off-season, has given the Desert reason to make the Monarchs favorites. Except Ole Dirty U is 2-13 ATS as a favorite lately and, even worse, **0-8 ATS** as they turn from road chalk into roadkill. ASU is hot for revenge after losing to the Monarchs last year as a 6-point favorite. Youngsters back in their classrooms are back to the three R's, and here at The Playbook, we're offering a history lesson to eager students. App. State has been an underdog twice in the last eight seasons, and they've cashed each time. Also, the Mountaineers have hosted the Monarchs twice since both joined the FBS and blew them out...twice. Those who do not understand history are doomed to repeat it, or worse, not bet on it. This is not a drill.

#### UCF over Arizona by 10

The Knights are just awful these days, losing five in a row in Big 12 play and out of their three wins, two are New Hampshire and Sam Houston. Arizona is also like a collapsed rocket on the Space Coast launchpad, losers of four in a row. The Wildcats are 1-5 SUATS and ITS (In The Stats) since a 2-0 start. Arizona is also a pathetic 2-12 ATS in games where both teams were favorites in their last games. This one is so grim we needed emotionless help from our computer lab, which reminded us that a 3-5 team playing Game 9, while on a five-game losing streak is 9-0 SU and 6-3 ATS when favored and 5-1 ATS when the opponent is batting .333 or better. Advantage UCF. Both teams fell well behind in their last games before scoring late to make the games look closer than they were. UCF may turn to RS-Freshman QB Dylan Rizk for the start; he led the Knights to a pair of 4th Quarter scores in the BYU loss. Watch for smoke signals from Central Florida. Arizona will travel nearly 3,600 round trip miles plus time zone changes from Tucson to Orlando and back. Even worse, the desert-based Wildcats will be introduced to a concept called "humidity." The loser of this game will be consigned to a three-hour loop on Disney World's "It's a Small World" attraction, the theme park equivalent of waterboarding.

#### ARMY over Air Force by 17

Air Force desperately needed a bye week to recoup from six straight losses after starting 1-0, but drawing a 7-0 Army unit is a real icebucket challenge. Army has the country's longest win streak at 11 and has reached 40 points or more four straight times, the best since the Black Knights won the national title in 1945. Seems like 1945 was an excellent year for the Army. Air Force already lost to Navy in the battle for the Commander-in-Chief Trophy, and in the last five games, Army is **5-0 ATS**. Army is also coming off a bye; in the last three years, they're 4-1 ATS. However, Army is anchored by being 2-7 ATS in a third straight home game and 4-8 in Game Eight. Army joins Indiana as the only FBS team not to trail this season, and while there's no reason to think that streak will be threatened by an empty Air Force offense, we will ride the numbers here and throw up a yellow caution flag.

#### AUBURN over Vanderbilt by 3

The Commies have been a dog lover's dream this season (5-0 ATS with the dog in each of their games going 7-0 ATS). They played well defensively against Texas, sacking Quinn Ewers four times in the 27-24 loss and intercepting him twice. Commodores' QB Diego Pavia managed to throw for just 155 yards but did toss two touchdown passes. Also, be aware that the visitor has covered the spread in the last three meetings of this series and that Vandy is 4-1 on the road against .400-or-less conference opposition. On the flip side, Auburn is just 1-4 at home when coming off back-to-back road games and 2-5 as conference chalk of 8 points or less. The Tigers whipped Kentucky last week as they broke open a 10-10 halftime tie to win 24-10, but have yet to win consecutive games this season. Senior RB Jarquez Hunter had a monster game for the Tigers, rushing for 278 yards and leading the Striped Cats with two second-half TDs. However, look for Hunter and the Tigers to come back down to earth this week.

#### UPSET GAME OF THE WEEK UPSET

#### ARKANSAS over Ole Miss by 6

The Rebels are in an LSU/Georgia sandwich with bad 'befores and afters': 5-10-1 ATS after LSU and 1-4 SU and 0-4-1 ATS before playing Georgia. Lane Kiffin's crew won a game they were expected to win last week against Oklahoma but trailed the Sooners at halftime. However, thanks in part to nine sacks and maybe a blistering halftime lecture from Professor Kiffin - the Rebs pulled away in the second half for a 26-14 win. But keep in mind that Ole Miss is 1-3-1 ATS in their last five games against single revenge and 3-8-1 ATS in Game 9. Meanwhile, the Razorbacks have covered the last four games of this series and even more impressive, are 10-1 ATS in the last eleven. They are also 6-3 in their last nine contests against .700-or-better SEC foes. With the 5-3 / 3-2 Hogs still in the running in the upper half of the salty 16-team SEC conference, we turn it over to THE **CLINCHER: Arkansas head coach Sam Pittman is 15-3 ATS** as a home dog in games when the Razorbacks allow fewer than 26 PPG, including 9-1 ATS versus .800 or fewer foes.

#### MARSHALL over UL Monroe by 7

Marshall has won the stats in only one of six games versus FBS opposition this season and allowed Georgia State a season-high 427 years in their last contest, a 35-20 victory. It all spells overconfidence for the Herd. We realize Marshall is **9-1 ATS** at home when coming off a road game, and ULM is just **2-10 ATS** when coming off a conference road game, but we're not biting. On the other side, just as PLAYBOOK recognized the improvement of the Warhawks in Monroe this season - especially on defense – they laid an egg in the second half at South Alabama on Saturday. Leading 17-12 at the half, ULM was outscored 34-0 after the intermission, as the Jaguars rushed for five TD's. Still, the surprising 5-2 /3-3 Warhawks are just a half-game out of the West Division lead in the Sun Belt Conference under first-year head coach Bryant Vincent. Three outright wins as underdogs are included in that 5-2 record, which means the Herd had better keep an eye on these warriors.

#### 3\* BEST BET

#### Duke over MIAMI FLORIDA by 1

Manny Diaz takes on the team that swept him under the rug after three years at the helm from 2019 to 2021, during which the Canes went 21-15. But there will be no intimidation today, as the Dukies beat the Canes here, 45-21, in their last meeting as a 10-point dog. Instead, the focus should be laser-sharp as the Blue Devils suffered a heart-breaking 28-27 overtime loss to SMU on Saturday night, as kicker Todd Pelino missed an extra point in the third guarter, an important field goal in the fourth, and had the potential game-winner blocked at the end of regulation. So, it is hard to blame Diaz for leaving Pelino on the sidelines in OT and going for the win in the extra frame. Meanwhile, Miami, off revenge wins over Florida State and Louisville in the last two games, is 4-21 ATS when coming off a win versus a foe off a loss, including 0-8 ATS in the last eight games. They are also 1-8 ATS in the second of conference home contests and 3-9 ATS as conference favorites of more than 13 points. The 8-0 Canes will be favored in every game moving forward. However, if you put each of the opponents that the Hurricanes have blown past this season on a weight scale, they would hardly move the needle, with a lot of empty calories in a combined record of 25-27. In this shocker, the Well-Oiled Machine supplies THE CLINCHER: Miami is 0-4 SUATS when coming off consecutive revenge victories when they allow more than 20 PPG on the season.

#### Buffalo over AKRON by 5

We're not sure why the Zips are not on our 'Puttin on the Stats' antilist of teams, but had they not faced Colgate, they would be a -138 in net yards per game in the stats this season (their only win coming against the aforementioned Raiders). To summarize, they are 122nd in the nation in Total Offense and 116th in Total Defense. They average just 16.4 PPG, which is in the cellar of the MAC. Meanwhile, Buffalo has owned this series with six consecutive SU victories, and the 4-4 / 2-2 Bulls own a pair of outright wins this season as double-digit dogs. On the downside, they have allowed 95 points combined in their last two games. Still, if they can handle Northern Illinois and Toledo, they should zip past the rubbermen today.

#### Toledo over EASTERN MICHIGAN by 3

The 5-3 / 2-2 Rockets can't seem to stay on a charted course this season despite winning the stats in six of their eight contests. After opening the season with three wins, they have been alternating wins and losses over the past five games. The latest zig-zag had the Rockets dropping a 41-26 decision to Bowling Green. So, are they due for a road win today against the 5-3 Eagles? Maybe, but we are not so sure. The EMUs will be looking to bounce back from a rather embarrassing 25-21 loss to Akron, which came despite outgaining the Zips by nearly 100 yards. Considering this series' recent results, the Eagles are 3-1 ATS in Ypsilanti. They are also **7-1 ATS** overall after a SU favorite loss. The hiccup is the Eagles' home/road dichotomy in conference games (61-42-2 ATS away; 39-60-3 ATS home). Take the points, pass go, and on't look back.

#### Tcu over BAYLOR by 3

TCU has won eight of the last nine games in this series, covering six of them. In addition, the 5-3 /3-2 Frogs are two losses behind BYU and lowa State in the Big 12 race, so this is a must-win today. The Horned Ones are ranked 5th in the nation in passing yardage behind Josh Hoover, so they can still light it up when necessary. The 'In The Stats' column on Page 2 - courtesy of the ultra-intelligent SMART BOX - makes this a dog call. Meanwhile, the Bears just put up a season-high yardage on Oklahoma State, but who hasn't lately? The major concern today is that Baylor is caught in the middle of a "live' double-ended conference sandwich – off consecutive revenge wins against Oklahoma State and Texas with revengers on deck with West Virginia and Houston. With that, we'll take a bite with the Frogs.

#### Northwestern over PURDUE by 4

The 3-5 / 1-4 Wildcats are still holding out hopes to become bowleligible, making a win in this game mandatory. Northwestern's top receiver Pat Bryant was knocked out of the Oregon game after taking a hard shot to the helmet and did not return, but head coach Bret Bielema said early in the week that he expected Bryant to play Saturday. Our primary concern is the Cats' 0-5 ITS (In The Stats) mark in the last five games by an average losing stat margin of 260 net YPG. Meanwhile, Purdue head coach Ryan Walters told reporters this week that he was uncertain who would take the first snap under center for Purdue in the game, but he does know that both quarterbacks, Hudson Card and Ryan Browne, would play. Card started at quarterback for the Boilermakers for the first five games to begin the season but suffered a head injury in the Boilermakers' 52-6 loss to Wisconsin, which sidelined him for the following two contests. The 1-6 / 0-4 Boilermakers reside in the Big Ten cellar and are 0-6 SU, 1-5 ITS, and 0-6 ITS versus FBS foes this season. A 2-13 ATS record in their last fifteen home games also means that when push comes to shove, there is only one way to look here.

#### ILLINOIS over Minnesota by 3

The Fightin' Illini have been victorious in the last three meetings in this series, and they are 1-4 ATS versus triple revenge-exact. Bret Bielema's squad is still in the Top 25 after getting pounded by #1 Oregon, 38-9, but the Illinois head coach is 6-2 ATS at home in conference games coming off a loss when his team allows fewer than 23.5 PPG. Illinois, now ranked No. 24, will try to avoid the fate they experienced in 2022 when they started 7-1 but fell apart down the stretch to finish 8-5. Minnesota, on the other hand, is 3-1 ATS with triple revenge-exact, but **0-4 ATS** in the first of back-to-back road games and **1-6 ATS** in Game 9. This will be a tough test in this key Big Ten clash for the 6-2 / 3-2 Illini, with the 5-3 / 3-2 Gophers having won three straight games. However, we're still unsure why Minny is the chalk here.

#### MICHIGAN STATE over Indiana by 1

Indiana is 8-0 for the first time since it won the Big Ten championship in 1967, and has won every game this season by 14 or more points. They are also the first IU team since 1998 to never trail in its first eight games, not bad for a program with three winning seasons the past 29 years and despite the fact that of the eight opponents they've faced this season, only one (Nebraska, 5-3) owns a winning record. With that, our question is, how will they react once they do? Keep this in mind: of the 222 FBS teams that were 8-0 on the season heading into Game Nine, 45 of them suffered their first defeat (pay attention,

Miami Fla and Oregon). Ten of the losses came against teams lacking a winning record (.500 or less). By those numbers, we're looking at the Spartans having approximately a 20% chance of pulling the rug out from under Indiana, so we can't lay points on the road in this quicksand setting. This clash will serve as the annual battle for the Old Brass Spittoon, but hopefully, no one will be swinging it around as a weapon at the end of this contest. After Kurtis Rourke missed last Saturday's 31-17 win over Washington with an injured thumb, Indiana coach Curt Cignetti said Monday he was "optimistic" on the quarterback's return today, but no worries if he cannot go, as backup Tayven Jackson did a serviceable job against Washington. The Big Ten will not discipline the athletes involved in the nasty brawl between the Michigan and Michigan State football teams last Saturday, which means the Spartans' line-up will be intact. Sparty's 'inside-out' 24-17 loss to Michigan, in which they outyarded the Wolverines, juxtaposes nicely with IU's 'inside-out' win over Washington. Can you say "bubble-burst"?

#### FLORIDA STATE over North Carolina by 3

The Seminoles are ranked 131st in the nation in Total Offense, averaging just 272.3 YPG, and they are tied for last in the FBS with UCLA in offensive TDs scored with 12 each. With all hope for this year now gone after getting crushed like a gnat by their bitter rival on Saturday night at Hard Rock Stadium, Mike Norvell is telling recruits that they will have the chance to make an immediate impact in Tallahassee next season. Still, the Noles bring a 5-0 ATS home dog log into this contest when they sport a sub.333 win percentage, and Norvell is 8-4 as a home dog, including 4-0 ATS with that same win percentage of less-than-.333. Meanwhile, the Tar Heels snapped a four-game losing skid (longest losing streak for the school since 2018) with a 41-14 win over Virginia on Saturday, and this is an extremely important game for Mac Brown in more ways than one. UNC is 0-6 ATS in this series if not a double-digit dog, and the Heels enter at 4-4 / 1-3. This should be a close and exciting game, even though both teams are performing below expectations.

#### GEORGIA over Florida by 8

The Gators (4-3 / 2-2) are one of a dozen teams in the SEC with a winning record this season, but the schedule from here on out is absolutely brutal. After playing the Bulldogs today, the combined W/L records of the next three opponents is 19-5. However, Billy Napier is 14-6-1 ATS as a conference dog, so as they say, that's why they play the games. A pair of freshmen, QB D.J. Lagway (five completions of over 40 yards) and RB Jaden Baugh (5 rushing touchdowns), led Florida to a 48-20 win over Kentucky on Saturday. The reptiles are also **6-1**-1 **ATS** with triple conference revenge-exact and 6-3 as SEC dogs of more than 8 points. Meanwhile, the 6-1 / 4-1 Dawgs are a full game behind Texas A&M for the top spot in the SEC, so this is not the time to take the foot off the gas. Georgia is also 4-12 ATS as a favorite of seven or more points when coming off three wins-exact. The Bulldogs are looking for their 7th win in the last eight years against Florida in Jacksonville, but this one will not be easy.

#### NC STATE over Stanford by 14

Before these days of conference realignment, this is a match-up you probably thought you would never see, except in a bowl game. The Wolfpack is the better team this season, hence the double-digit spread. The Pack is **8-1 SU and 7-1-1 ATS** when both teams are coming off a conference clash. Meanwhile, the 2-6 / 1-4 Cardinal are a half-game back of 4-4 / 1-3 Wolfpack in the ACC. More importantly, though, they are a miserable **1-14 ATS** when coming off an ATS loss versus an opponent coming off an ATS win... do you want any of that? We don't think so. Especially not with The Tree winless in its seven games against FBS opponents this season. Lay the lumber.

#### Memphis over UTSA by 3

OMG! What's going on in San Antonio these days? The Roadrunners led 14-0 in the first quarter and 35-7 at the half before entering the Witness Protection Program when they completely disappeared in a 46-45 loss at Tulsa last week. Picked to finish second in the preseason American Athletic poll, the Roadrunners need to win three of four next month to make a bowl game. Not likely, since they close the regular season to play currently-undefeated Army. Meanwhile, the 7-1 / 3-1 Tigers rank third among current Group of Five teams in the new AP Top 25 poll, behind No. 15 Boise State and No. 21 Army, so they figure to have the pedal to the metal moving forward. But is UTSA ready to acquiesce? The other side of the equation is how much





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pressure Memphis is under. They are outyarding foes by 85 yards per game, but the Roadrunners are winning the stats at a 62 YPG clip this season. So, they won't go down easy, not with a 24-2 outright record in the Alamodome, with nary a loss by more than eight points.

#### Middle Tennessee State over UTEP by 1

The Miners (1-7) won for the first time in 357 days over FIU two weeks ago but couldn't follow it up with a second consecutive win last Tuesday when they gave up a long TD pass in the 4th quarter to drop a 14-10 decision to Louisiana Tech. They will try again tonight for that second win, but this 'slugfest' loser will likely fall to the bottom of the CUSA. That's because the Blue Man Group is not much better at 2-6, and their defense is an abomination. They are ranked 127th in the nation in Total Defense, and if you throw out the 14-5 win over Kennesaw State when they held KSU to 234 yards, they would be allowing an average of over 500 YPG. UTEP is **1-5 SU and 1-4-1 ATS** in this series, and the only sure thing we know about the Miners is that they will extend the longest skein in the nation by a team not winning a bowl game. That dates back to 1967, and that's not saying much.

#### IOWA STATE over Texas Tech by 10

lowa State moved down one spot from the Top 10 to No. 11 in the Week 10 AP rankings and is now tied with Clemson at No. 11. Their 7-0 start is the Clones' best since 1938, and their 4-0 start to the Big 12 season is the best in the school's history. They have the best stop unit in the conference but have struggled at times to stop the run. They gave up 354 yards on the ground to UCF in the 38-35 win before last week's bye. Meanwhile, the Red Raiders have some excellent supporting numbers: 9-2 ATS versus double revenge-exact, 10-2 SU and 11-1 ATS when coming off a road loss, and 4-2 against undefeated conference opposition. Still, there is lots of value here with 5-3 / 3-2 Red Raiders catching doubles from the undefeated Cyclones, who are looking ahead to a revenge affair with Kansas next week. Besides, ISU is 2-5 ATS at home with double revenge-exact. Despite their awful defensive unit, which gives up 466 PPG (ranked 126th in the country), we'll be on the take.

#### ARIZONA STATE over Oklahoma State by 4

The Cowboys would have been close to a double-digit favorite at the start of the season. Today, they are a home dog, and it's not because the Sun Devils have been pitch-fork hot or anything; it's because OSU sports a 500-yard defense, the second-worst in the nation. (Only Kent State gives up more yardage.) A **7-1 ATS** home dog log looks appealing, but so does a bowl of crack to an addict. It's why tickets at Boone Pickens Stadium now come with a warning: "Watching the Cowboys today can be hazardous to your health." Meanwhile, (continued on next page)

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the Devils' **10-1 ATS** mark when both teams are coming off an ATS loss, along with some well-balanced stats (402-yard offense and 315-yard defense), will help us ignore the problems at the place-kicker position. Ian Hershey missed two crucial field goals in the 24-14 loss to Cincinnati last week, causing ASU head coach Kenny Dillingham to offer students who might be interested in a tryout to show up at the practice field. Still, ASU is the play in this fray.

#### SMU over Pitt by 11

What's this? An undefeated team taking a TD from a conference newbie? Before you start grabbing the points with both fists, be aware that the 7-0 Pitt Panthers have racked up their wins over a parade of not-so-impressive opponents. While they did raise a few eyebrows with last week's 41-13 rout of then 5-1 Syracuse, the real story was Orange QB Kyle McCord throwing FIVE interceptions against Pitt, three of which were returned for touchdowns in the first half. That led to a 31-0 deficit, which da' Cuse couldn't overcome. However, the final stat breakdown showed the Panthers were outgained 317-214 in the win. You read that right: Pittsburgh scored 41 points on 217 total vards of offense. SMU's 28-27 overtime win over Duke last week was about as easy as Sisyphus pushing a boulder up a hill for eternity. Somehow, the Mustangs lost the turnover ball, 6-0, yet still emerged victorious... the win probability of that happening is between 1% and 2%. The Ponies will be stoked to be back in Dallas after a brutal three-game road swing that saw them sweep ACC foes to improve their conference record to 4-0. Rhett Lashlee's offense has churned out 45 points per game at home this season, and that includes SMU's 18-15 loss to BYU on this field. The Methodists also boast a 9-1 ATS record at home against greater than .600 conference foes, along with a 9-2 ATS mark when coming off a road win. Not only is Pitt off back-to-back wins in which they were outgained in each contest, but they've rolled snake eyes of late while wearing the conference road dog collar, going 0-6 ATS. All of which forces us to do the unthinkable and make a play on the chalk tonight.

#### Navy over RICE by 8

When you see the Gorton's Fisherman decked out in his yellow rain gear, you know the seas ahead are stormy. That's what is facing the Midshipmen today after Navy's unbeaten season bubble was rudely burst by Notre Dame last week, 51-14. Go figure. After not fumbling the ball all season, the Middies turned it over six times in their loss to the Irish – this after having ZERO turnovers in all five of their games against FBS foes this season! Meanwhile, the Owls fired head coach Mike Bloomgren following last week's 17-10 loss at UConn, the third FBS head coach firing in the past week following ECU and Southern Miss, who ditched Mike Houston and Will Hall. Bloomgren had been the Owls' head coach since 2018, but in those seven seasons, he posted a poor 24-52 record, including a 2-6 mark to start this year. However, the feeling is that the move may spark a new life for the Krispies. Rice has also seen a run-heavy offense like Navy's just over a month ago when the Owls faced Army. With the Swabbies now out of the AP Top 25 and the ole **Bubble Burst** knocking on the door, look for Rice to keep it under the double-digit spread this afternoon in Houston.

#### UAB over Tulsa by 1

A die-hard Blazer fan, depressed by 1-6 UAB's six-game losing skid, turned his TV on last Saturday and landed on the UTSA-Tulsa game. With Tulsa up next for UAB, he looked at the 35-7 halftime lead for the Roadrunners and thought, "Maybe, just maybe, we can BEAT this Tulsa team!" Fast forward to the end of the game, after the Golden Hurricane had huffed and puffed the Roadrunners right out of town with a 39-10 second-half rampage to pull out an improbable onepoint win. That's one helluva comeback, folks, but a deeper look inside the numbers tells a different tale, as Tulsa allowed the Roadrunners a season-high 506 yards of offense and were outgained by over 100 yards in the contest. That puts them at 1-6 ITS (In The Stats) against FBS opposition this season, losing the stats by an average -188 net YPG. Losing has become commonplace for UAB as the Trent Dilfer watch continues. He takes the field today with a 5-14 SU record as an FB head coach (all with the Blazers), including 1-5 SU and 2-4 ATS after cashing a ticket in the previous game. They are, however, 34-8 SU and 22-12-2 ATS in all home games dating back to 2017, while Tulsa counters with a solid 15-5-1 ATS mark as a dog against foes coming off an ATS win. Yes, the Hurricane is blowing hot and cold, but we can't lay a field goal with a Blazers team whose last win came on August 29th against Alcorn State. Pass.

#### Kansas State over HOUSTON by 6

Where does Houston fit in the overall scheme of this year's Big 12 Conference? After a 1-4 start under new head coach Willie Fritz, the Cougars were clearly a work in progress, just trying to pick up the pieces from the Dana Holgorsen regime. But having notched wins over TCU and Utah in their last three outings, 3-5 Houston still has a slim chance of reaching a bowl game this season - though Fritz and company will have to derail two of the conference's best teams, Kansas State and BYU - to fulfill that dream. We don't see that happening, but we can still make some money off the Cougars, who'll be taking double digits in both games. First up are the Wildcats from Manhattan, fresh off a 29-27 white-knuckle win over the rival Jayhawks to stretch their current win streak to 4-0. But while KSU head coach Chris Klieman has won all six meetings with Kansas, the Wildcats have gone just 1-3 during regular season games versus the next opponent. The tale of the ATS tape stacks the deck in favor of Houston, who stands 12-2 ATS as dogs of 13 or more points and 10-4 ATS home off a home game when facing a .875 or greater opponent, including 5-0 ATS as a dog of eight or more points. That's enough to get a "Shazam!" out of Gomer Pyle, especially when we see that K-State is 0-4 ATS away of late as a favorite of seven or more points. Then there's the colossal gorilla in the room: Houston's 41-0 embarrassment by the Wildcats last season, a humbling defeat that sent the remainder of the campaign into a tailspin that doomed Holgorsen. Willie Fritz wasn't around for that disaster, but you can rest assured his team won't go a minute until game time without hearing about it. A Wildcat warning has been issued.

#### Coastal Carolina over TROY by 8

Sheesh. After winning 23 games the previous two seasons, the 1-7 / 0-4 Trojans have had a hard fall this year in more ways than one. The culprit has been an offense that's slipped 74 yards and 9 points per game from last year's squad behind first-year head coach Gerard Parker. As a result, Troy is currently languishing in the Sun Belt cellar, tied with the equally woeful Eagles of Southern Miss. No, this is not the same Coastal Carolina team that captivated America with a 31-7 SU run from 2020 through 2022 under Jamey Chadwell. This year's 4-3 / 1-2 Chanticleers are still in the running to gather a bowl bid but are two lengths back in the Sun Belt East. The fact is they love lining up against weaker opponents, compiling a nearly spotless record of 12-1 SU and 11-1-1 ATS versus .250 or fewer foes. Spotless is not the word to describe Troy's recent 3-11 SUATS failure as a home dog of ten or fewer points. While a bowl game is out of the question for the Trojans, the question is whether an upset win or two down the stretch is not. At 0-3 In The Stats in their last three games, we'll put that thought on hold today.

#### SOUTH ALABAMA over Georgia Southern by 10

East meets West in another Sun Belt showdown, with both the Jaguars and Eagles holding on to 3-1 records in conference play. The proverbial sense of urgency belongs to 4-4 South Alabama tonight, who has rebounded nicely after a 0-2 start to the season to go 4-2 SUATS and 5-1 ITS (In The Stats). Georgia Southern looked like a runaway train after shocking James Madison for its fifth win in six outings, but an equally shocking 47-19 loss to Old Dominion last week derailed that idea. Now, the Eagles fly into Mobile with a -15 net point differential, while the Jaguars sport a +101 net point differential. The Statesboro bunch also arrives with a money-burning **1-6 SUATS** mark in their last seven conference games. The Jaguars, however, are 2-0 SUATS at home in conference games when off consecutive home games – with an average win margin of 17 PPG. With the spread currently hovering at USA -6, we'll lay the small price with Major Applewhite's Jags.

#### 5 **BEST BET**

#### WASHINGTON over Usc by 10

If you're wondering why 4-4 Washington is off to such a tepid start after making it to last year's CFB Playoff Championship game against Michigan, let's review. First, head coach Kalen DeBoer took his 25-3 record in Seattle to Tuscaloosa, and while Jedd Fisch will prove to be a great hire, it will take time. Next, the Huskies returned only five starters from last year's squad and were ranked No. 125 nationally in returning player production (it's as bad as it sounds). Finally, they're getting acclimated to a new conference; tonight's matchup between familiar foes will be their first as members of the Big Ten. The 4-4 Trojans allowed just 305 YPG in their first five games this season, an improvement of +113 yards per game over last year's stop-unit, but they've coughed up an average of 461 YPG over their last three contests (1-2) as they inch closer to last year's numbers. This is not the life of Riley that USC had in mind when they hired him away from Oklahoma. In fact, you'd be better off building your dream home on a flood plain than trying to cash a ticket with Lincoln Riley when he's favored on the road: Try 8-20 ATS on for size, including 1-10 ATS versus foes coming off consecutive losses. Stepping in for another Trojan takedown, the MIDWEEK ALERT advises you to take a deeper look at the Huskies. They are 8-0 In the Stats, which puts them in this week's SMART BOX as a 'play on' dog, we'll gladly oblige. We seal the deal with THE CLINCHER: Lincoln Riley is 4-18 ATS away versus conference foes coming off consecutive losses, including 0-7 ATS against foes who won seven or more games during the regular season last year.

#### Wisconsin over IOWA by 6

We put serious bad-mouth on Iowa last week, and the Hawkeyes responded by ripping Northwestern 40-14. So what? The fact is the Black-and-Gold take so long to get going on the field that the first half is over before anything exciting happens: led Northwestern, 12-7; trailed Michigan State, 0-12; led Washington, 20-10; trailed Ohio State, 0-7. We don't need a Nielsen diary to tell us that anyone with opposable thumbs will snatch the remote to escape boredom. It's a different story for Hawkeye fans, though, who are busy touting the fact that Kirk Ferentz's offense has somehow been resuscitated statistically this season, with scoring and overall offense up 15 points and 126 yards per game over the comatose display that put fans to sleep before daddy Kirk ousted son Brian from his offensive coordinator job. The Badgers awoke from a 2-2 slumber by crushing three opponents in a row by an average score of 39-6 before getting a cold dose of reality from Penn State last week, losing 28-13. Head coach Luke Fickell hasn't made anyone forget about Barry Alvarez or Paul Chryst, currently 5-3 this year and 12-9 overall, but his Badgers are better equipped to beat a team like lowa compared to the Nittany Lions. Plus, he's got revenge in his back pocket, as Wisconsin fell, 15-6, as 9-point home chalk to the Hawkeyes last season. Bucky still outgained the Hawkeyes 324-220, and with Fickell now in Game Two of his revenge tour (beat Northwestern 23-3), we won't be surprised to see another low-scoring slugfest where Wisky comes out on top. Just give us a nudge if we start snoring.

NOTE: Home team is shown in ALL CAPS. PLAYBOOK selection is **Underlined and Bold.** Should we pass or not have a strong opinion on a game, neither team will be bolded.

#### NEBRASKA over Ucla by 13

You can look at Nebraska's 21-17 loss to Ohio State last week in one of two ways. You can point out that the Huskers fell to 4-19 in one-score games and 0-27 in the last twenty-seven games against ranked teams. Or you could say Nebraska, just one week after being totally dismantled by Indiana, gave the highly-ranked Buckeyes all they could handle, as OSU needed an interception with 1:16 left to seal the victory. We prefer option two, so we expect the goal posts to come down in Lincoln at the conclusion of this contest when Nebraska becomes bowl eligible for the first time since 2016. That's an amazing stat, considering the Cornhuskers are among the few college programs that have won back-to-back National Championships. Good sport here for head coach Matt Rhule, who is 22-12-1 ATS in conference games when coming off a loss, including 5-1 SUATS versus sub .400 foes. Meanwhile, few teams seem as lost in the new Big Ten conference as UCLA, who somehow picked up a rare road win at Rutgers last week. Even so, the Bruins are just 2-5 and will need a win today, plus three more in their final four contests against Iowa, Washington, USC, and Fresno State. Like the CB crowd used to say, "That's a negatory, good buddy." Making matters worse for first-year head coach Deshaun Foster this afternoon is his team's dreadful 1-8 ATS record in games following a win and a 1-5 ATS mark when coming off a SU underdog win. Of course, the stars could align, the earth split open, and the Bruins spring the upset, but we don't think so. Lay the points with impunity.

#### Oregon over MICHIGAN by 8

What goes around, comes around. The Michigan backers who counted their money with a 28-13-2 ATS run in Jim Harbaugh's final three seasons are paying the price with this year's 2-6 ATS effort. When these two teams last met, it was here in the Big House in 2007 when the Ducks mauled Michigan, 39-7, as a seven-point underdog. At 5-3 for the season, we realize the Wolverines are playing largely on name and reputation following last year's National Championship edition, but defending National Champions are 17-10-1 ATS versus undefeated foes the next season, including 11-6-1 ATS in conference games. Will that be enough to offset what appears to be an unstoppable Oregon team? Behind CFB QB Dillion Gabriel, the No. 2 all-time passer in NCAA history behind Timmy Chang (both from Hawaii), Oregon is now 3-0 against ranked opponents this year, keeping its ducks in a row with a surprisingly easy 38-9 romp over then No. 20 Illinois last week. A warning for the Big Ten: the Illini were the last nationally ranked team left on the Ducks schedule as they improved to 8-0 for the first time since 2013. We realize the media is so enamored with Oregon right now that they're billing this matchup as Number One versus Number None, but we can't turn down two TDs with a desperate Michigan squad that's 4-0-1 ATS in the last five against undefeated conference foes. And the last time the Ducks started 8-0 in 2013? The next time out, they lost 20-16 to Stanford as 10-point chalk. Don't see that happening this afternoon, but we will grab the points in what should be a physical battle.

#### NEW MEXICO over Wyoming by 3

Cowboys lost their swagger this season when veteran head coach Craig Bohl opted for Medicare and Social Security over caving into the wild and wacky world of NIL and the Transfer Portal. It's been a mortifying experience for the Wyoming faithful, free-falling from last year's 9-4 bowl-winning campaign to the 1-7 train wreck that's been presided over by new head coach Jay Sawvel. Despite all their tribulations, the Pokes are still 3-1 ATS in conference play this season. While that may not seem like a huge recommendation, backing the Lobos' **2-14 ATS** record as home chalk is like shaking hands with a leper (no offense to lepers) – you're going to pay the price. When coming off a road loss, New Mexico's **1-7 ATS** ledger isn't much better. The public hasn't paid attention, driving the line from NM -6 to -7.5 at press time. Until we receive a telepathic message from the Walter White-Jesse Pinkman statue in Albuquerque to jump on the Lobos, we'll be on the take until kickoff.

#### MISSISSIPPI STATE over UMass by 13

We're starting to think there are just too many college football teams in the FBS now, and it might be a good idea to begin a gradual cutback to FCS status. If such a policy comes to pass, we suggest UMass as a candidate for demotion. The pro-Massachusetts points out that the Minutemen are 2-6 this season (both wins coming against (continued on next page)



FCS opposition), which is close to surpassing their 2.2 win-per-year average for the last ten seasons. We say the 2.2 is all the evidence you need – though UMass should get some consideration for the fact that Dr. J was enrolled there. Still, nobody's got a monopoly on misery, as pitiful Mississippi State is actually having a worse year than the Minutemen. Try this on for size: **0-7 SU and 1-6 ATS** versus FBS foes this season, while sinking to a 1-7 SU overall record. It's one reason why fans in Starkville are awaiting the start of basketball season (the Bulldogs won 21 games last year). Another is that the UMass defense ranks No. 38 in the land with 330 yards per game – 139 yards per game superior to the Bulldogs' 477 YPG stop-unit. With Hail State just **1-8 ATS** at home off a home game and with little to play for, the only consideration here is taking the absurd amount of points being offered.

#### 4 BEST BET

#### SOUTH CAROLINA over Texas A&M by 8

If ever a team was ripe to be ambushed this week, it's the Aggies. Following last Saturday's stirring, come-from-behind 38-23 destruction of LSU at Kyle Field, A&M's players, and fans basked in the glow of their 7-1 overall start and 5-0 record in conference play, good enough to put the Aggies atop the SEC race. It wasn't easy, though. Quarterback Conner Weigman was sacked four times early in the game, prompting coach Mike Elko to turn to Marcel Reed, who sparked a 31-point second half for the Aggies. It's a remarkable turnaround for a program that was so desperate just a year ago that it spent \$75 million to buy Jimbo Fisher out. Elko inherited a team with 18 returning starters, the only team in the nation that welcomed back 17 or more starters a second straight season, but in the new world of college football where transition classes and seasons are extraordinarily difficult to handle, the good players you hope to inherit often leave. Elko didn't let that happen and as a result, they are the only unbeaten team in conference play. Compared to the No. 10 Aggies, South Carolina is all but invisible. It's so bad that the folks who produce head coach Shane Beamer's weekly 30-minute TV show on Gamecocks football recently listed the program as "Comedy" instead of "Sports Talk". Well, we've got news for you: The MIDWEEK ALERT notes that the Cocks have limited four of their last six foes to season-low yardage, while the Aggies have been outyarded in each of their last two victories and three of their last four games overall. A trip to the ATS archives also exposes A&M's 1-4 ATS failure away versus single conference revenge and a 4-13 ATS record as a Game Seven conference favorite. The Gamecocks, though, are 4-1 ATS of late when playing after a week of rest off a SU win. With the Aggies coming off that huge conference revenge victory over LSU, we back this Homecoming dog with added assistance from THE CLINCHER: Texas A&M is 2-10 SU and 2-9-1 ATS in its last dozen road games, including 0-8 SU and 1-6-1 ATS against winning opponents.

#### TENNESSEE over **<u>Kentucky</u>** by 10

While Mississippi State has a firm grip on the SEC cellar at 0-5, sad sack Kentucky is knocking on the door at 1-5. After beating Ole Miss just over a month ago, Kentucky has seen its season go through a shredder like the one in "Three Body Problem" Episode 4, losing to three teams the Wildcats probably should have beaten in: Vanderbilt, Florida, and Auburn. Still, the Cats have lost their purr before, but head coach Mark Stoops always finds a way to get it back. They are coming off their second consecutive win over Alabama in Knoxville - and getting a Bye week to celebrate and recover. and mend some injuries - the Volunteers sure look like an easy mark. Quite a leap in tonight's point spread, as last year saw UK taking four points in Lexington while the Vols are handing out 16-17 points in Knoxville here. That comes courtesy of Tennessee's No. 7 ranking in the AP poll, and Big Orange has cashed in six of the last seven series get-togethers. The last five seasons in the rivalry have seen one blowout win by each squad, with the remaining games decided by margins of 4, 3, and 6 points. Big Blue brings the heavy ATS artillery with them, going **5-1 ATS** before a Week of Rest and 8-2 ATS as conference dogs of 11 or more points. Stoops also chips in with his 15-6 ATS mark as a dog against foes coming off consecutive wins. Surprisingly, Tennessee's Josh Heupel is only 3-10 ATS as a home favorite of 14 or more points, including 1-8 ATS with a win percentage of less than .888. We say grab the big points in what could be another down-to-the-wire border rivalry game.

#### FRESNO STATE over Hawaii by 18

Hawaii fans had a reason to get lei'd last Saturday night after their beloved Rainbow Warriors dare we say breezed to a 34-13 win over favored Nevada. Still, the resounding win lifted head coach Timmy Chang's record to just 2-5 and 11-23 overall, meaning he needs a strong showing down the stretch, or he may not be invited back for a fourth year. The problem is everything usually goes to hell in a handbag for the grass skirts in Game Nine of the season, bringing a 7-16 SU and 6-17 ATS Game Nine mark into this game, including 1-9 ATS in the last ten games. If that stat set off your ugly meter, take a look at Hawaii's **0-9 SUATS** failure as conference road dogs of three or more points. U-G-L-Y. The 5-3 / 3-1 Bulldogs have quietly gone 34-14 overall in the last three-plus years and are currently one game back of three teams in the MWC chase. While the kids from the pineapple patch will be playing to save Chang's job, the Bulldogs have a bigger game on the menu, which should guarantee their full focus tonight.

#### Colorado State over NEVADA by 5

Yet another snoozer from the soon-to-be plundered Mountain West Conference. And speaking of the MWC race, the Rams are one of three teams still unbeaten in conference play – but somehow, they're barely favored over a Nevada team that redefined 'catatonic' in their 34-13 loss at Hawaii last week. The question is, which Wolf Pack team will we get here tonight in Reno? The one that lost by five points to SMU? Or the one that got shut out by Minnesota, 27-0? We're leaning towards the latter, considering the Wolf Pack have been outstatted in each of the last four games, allowing season-high yards in two of the last three contests. That's a no-go for us tonight in the city where Johnny Cash shot a man just to watch him die, even if a possible bowl contest hangs in the balance for Nevada. Lay it or don't play it.

#### Ohio State over PENN STATE by 1

Yet another Game of the Year finds the dueling scowls of No. 4 Ohio State's Ryan Day and No. 3 Penn State's James Franklin taking center stage at high noon on FOX. There's a lot going on in this battle of the behemoths, especially in the ATS arena. The Buckeyes hit Happy Valley armed with a 9-1 ATS mark away from Columbus after scoring 21 or fewer points, plus a stout 13-4-1 ATS record as conference road chalk of 7 or fewer points. The Nittany Lions answer with a 5-3 SU and 6-2 ATS ledger as a home dog when undefeated, including 3-0 ATS in Big Ten games. Penn State has also cashed tickets in six of the last eight meetings with Ohio State. And then there is the 'Ugly Betty' Stat of the week: 7-0 college football conference home dogs are 15-36 ATS in Game Eight since 1990. Yikes. Penn State starting QB Drew Allar did not play in the second half against Wisconsin after suffering an apparent injury on a sack. Backup Beau Pribula stepped in to help lead the Nittany Lions to their 28-13 win over Wisconsin in Madison. More bad news for Penn State: they also lost stud DE Dan Dennis-Sutton in the Badgers game, which could be a massive loss for the defense. We'll have more on this matchup once the final injury status is known, but with the Lions resting comfortably in this week's SMART BOX page 3, you know where we're going to be.



#### **PRO FOOTBALL**

#### Thursday, October 31

#### NY JETS over Houston by 7

The Jets' 3-point loss and the Texans' 3-point win last week were two of nine games in the NFL that ended in one-score games. That begs the question: Does this contest warrant consideration of another close-call game? We can't say, but our Well-Oiled Machine jumps into the equation, noting that NFL teams coming off a three-point win are just 32-48-4 ATS since 1980 when facing a losing foe coming off a three-point loss, including 6-11 SUATS as a dog of four or fewer points. Furthermore, the Texans lead the AFC South division despite holding a meager +09 yards edge in point differential. The Jets are riding a 5-game SUATS losing streak, while the Texans have rounded up wins in four of their last five games. Things are so bad for Gang Green that Notre Dame scored more TDs at MetLife Stadium in one game (7) last week than the Jets and Giants have scored there all season (6). Look for that to change this Sunday as the Texans lost WR Stefon Diggs for the season with a torn ACL in last week's costly win over the Colts, rendering them devoid of wide receiver starting talent. During the current five-game losing streak, the Jets have six missed field goals, so we'll likely see a new kicker wearing a Jets' jersey Thursday night. With the Texans just 2-5 ATS in their last seven road games on Thursday and the Jets 4-1 SUATS in their previous five games against the AFC South, look for Aaron Rodgers to improve on his 16-5 SU and 14-7 ATS career record in home games when his team is coming off a SU favorite loss, including 7-0 SUATS when facing .625 or greater opposition. Jets, Jets, Jets!

#### Sunday, November 3

#### **TENNESSEE** over New England by 6

The **MIDWEEK ALERT** reports that the Titans remain the top defense in the league, holding five foes to season-low yards this year, including Detroit in last week's puzzling 52-14 loss, a game in which Tennessee won the stats, 416-225, as a negative 4-0 turnover

margin led to the eventual loss. On the flip side, the Pats enter off a 25-22 upset win over division rival NY Jets despite being out-yarded 336-224. That makes this a "double inside-out" stats game favoring the Titans. However, before you prepare to snap the rubber band on the terrible Titans, the Well-Oiled Machine notes that teams, including last year's Super Bowl game, are 0-7 SUATS the game after facing the Lions. Yech. So where do we turn, you ask? New England hasn't won consecutive games in two years (0-8 outright), and the Titan's starting QBs (Will Levis and Mason Rudolph) rank No. 33 and 34, last in QB Rating. When push comes to shove, we'll shove the Pats and their current **0-7 ITS** (In The Stats) streak to the road and side with the league's top-ranked defense under the Thursday Night lights.

#### CLEVELAND over LA Chargers by 3

Last year, it was Joe Flacco. This year, it's Jameis Winston. It's becoming apparent that the Browns don't need a solid starting quarterback. A reliable backup will do. With the Deshaun Watson saga ending, the ball is now in Winston's corner. Coming off a stirring upset over the high-flying Ravens when he completed 27 of 41 passes for 334 yards, 3 TDs, and no interceptions for a QB Rating of 115.3, he gives Cleveland a ray of hope moving forward. The Browns have become a formidable team, with RB Nick Chubb getting healthier each game. They are 3-1 ATS in the third of three straight home games and 4-1 ATS after Raven rumbles. Yes, the Chargers own a jaw-dropping 14-1 ATS mark against the AFC Central, but they are also just 1-4 ATS as non-division road chalk of four or fewer points. Remember, an early start makes this a 10 AM body-clock game for the Bolts; with it, the points become the play.

#### CAROLINA over New Orleans by 1

A key game in the NFC South – for last-place honors – finds the slumping Saints invading the invisible Panthers. Since opening the season 2-0 SUATS with an average win margin of 31 points per game, New Orleans has applied to FEMA for government assistance, and it has nothing to do with funds to help improve the city. It would be to perk up the quality of a Saints football team that has gone *(continued on next page)* 



**0-6 SU, 1-5 ATS, and 1-5 ITS** (In The Stats) while losing the stats by an average net margin of **-150 yards per game**. Making matters worse today, they take a body of work into this battle that is 0-4 ATS following a non-conference road game and 1-4-1 ATS in the last six division road favorites- not to mention having surrendered seasonhigh yardage in four of its last five games. Life in Pantherland is far homey, but the host in this series is **5-1-1 ATS** as of late, and Carolina is 4-3 outright and 4-2-1 ATS the past two and a half seasons in division home games. Grab the points as we chant, "The Panthers win! The Panthers win!"

#### BUFFALO over Miami by 10

Bills topped the 400-yard benchmark for the first time this season in last week's 31-10 smashing of the Seahawks in Seattle and now take a 3-0 SUATS win skein into this AFC East matchup today. Meanwhile, Tua Tagovailoa returned to the Dolphins lineup last week and helped generate a season-high 27 points in a one-point loss to Arizona. A quick check of the history book finds Miami **5-1 ATS** in its last six division road games but just 9-13-2 ATS away in Tua's NFL starts (as opposed to 18-11 ATS at home) in his NFL career. We're not interested in fading a Bills' bunch coming into its own, and also **6-0 ATS** after playing on the NFC road games. And neither should you be.

#### Dallas over ATLANTA by 1

Try as they may, the Cowboys' woes continued in San Francisco last week when, after taking a 10-6 lead into halftime, they were outscored 21-0 in the 3Q by the Niners. Allowing 223 rushing yards will do that, as they've taken it on the chops in their past two games against playoffquality opponents, losing by a 77-33 margin to the 49ers and the Lions. It's no surprise that Dallas ranks last in overall rushing at 74.1 yards per game, while QB Dak Prescott ranks No. 25 in overall QB Rating of 84.5. Like they used to say in Houston during NASA launches, "Dallas, you've got a problem." It starts at the head of the food chain, where owner Jerry Jones refuses to let go of his stranglehold on the team. It's what narcissists do. Still, this team has enough talent to eke out a winning ATS ticket, provided JJ doesn't get any further in the way. With it, the Boys bring a 7-1 ATS road record in Domes and a 5-0 ATS mark in games after San Francisco skirmishes into this battle. With Atlanta just 1-7 ATS as non-division home chalk, we'll ride along with the Cowboys for another week before hopping off this horse.

NOTE: Home team is shown in ALL CAPS. PLAYBOOK selection is **Underlined and Bold.** Should we pass or not have a strong opinion on a game, neither team will be bolded.

#### 4 BEST BET

#### Denver over BALTIMORE by 6

If you're a Ravens fan and are itching to book accommodations in New Orleans for Super Bowl LIX, you might want to put on the brakes. While they are an offensive juggernaut ranking first in the league in overall offense at 452 YPG, rushing offense at 200 YPG, and No. 2 in scoring at 30 PPG, there are holes - big holes - that need to be patched on the other side of the ball. They currently rank dead last in the league in overall pass defense at 291.4 YPG, yards per pass play at 291.4, and No. 25 in overall team defense at 361.3 yards per game. Toss in that two of their three losses have come at the hands of the Raiders and Browns, 4-12 combined, and you can see the holes. They enter today's game at just 1-7 ATS as a non-division home favorite of seven or more points. Enter the upstart Broncos, led by first-year QB Bo Nix, who owns more wins than any rookie Denver quarterback in team history. Toss in the Broncos' ballsy 7-1 ATS ledger as a dog of seven or more points, and we've nailed our side in this game. We polish it off with THE CLINCHER: See this week's TRIVIA **TEASER on page 2.** 

#### CINCINNATI over Las Vegas by 4

Raiders' QB Aidan O'Connell did not complete a forward pass in the final three quarters in last week's 27-20 hang-job against the Chiefs last week. That, in a nutshell, tells you all you need to know about the vice being perpetrated by the team from the Sin City these days. Life in the Queen City is an abomination of its own, too. The Bengals are not only "leaking oil" at **0-5 ITS** (In The Stats) in their last five games; they are bleeding profusely at 3-5 this season, with the three wins coming against Carolina, Cleveland, and the NY Giants (5-18 combined). Meanwhile, the Raiders own the ignominy of handing woeful Carolina its only win of the season. If this were a pilot for the Debauchery Channel, it would be canceled on the spot. Instead, it's the scraps being offered by the NFL today. The bottom line is that a team playing this poorly, one that is **1-6 ATS** as a non-division favorite of seven or more points should not be favored against itself. Swallow the poison pill and take the points.

#### Indianapolis over MINNESOTA by 4

With rookie "phenom" QB Anthony Richardson now glued to the bench after going 2-for-15 during the first half of last week's 23-20 loss at Houston and then opting to "tap out" in the second half, it's back to Joe Flacco, who ranks No.8 overall in QB Rating at 102.2. Simply put, this has to be considered a massive upgrade for the Colts, as Richardson's 57.2 QB Rating was dead last in the loop behind the likes of Will Levis, Mason Rudolph, and Bryce Young. We're big Flacco backers, and why not? He's been especially adept as an underdog jumping on opponents that are off a loss, going 18-10 ATS in his NFL career - including 14-5 ATS on the road. The Colts themselves are 5-0 ATS in this series. Then there are the suddenly swirling Vikings, who failed to win in both games as favorites following the Bye week. They also ride a 5-game ITS (In The Stats) losing skein, meaning they are "leaking oil" at a troubling rate. You know exactly what to do today with Minny as not-so-mighty 1-8 ATS as non-division chalk of more than four points.

#### NY GIANTS over Washington by 3

Jayden Daniels' legendary 52-yard 'Hail Mary' pass on the game's final play was the only touchdown scored by the Commanders in the contest. It seems that the way the season has unfolded for Washington this year, 'Ave Maria' was perhaps a better description of how the game ended. As a result, former Redskins' fans are wearing more warpaint than they have in a long, long while. At 6-2, Washington resides atop the NFC East with a +69 net points differential, which ranks them No. 3 in the league behind Detroit and Buffalo. They had better not be reading the press clipping too long, though, as they are just 15-27-2 ATS as a favorite in this series. They are also 1-8 ATS as a favorite off a win versus foes coming off a loss as a dog and 1-4-1 ATS away when coming off consecutive home affairs. Yes, Big Blue may be struggling, but they stand at attention at 10-2 ATS when coming off a road loss, not to mention 15-7-1 SU and 16-7 ATS of late in this series, including 5-1-1 SU and 6-1 ATS when Washington checks in off a win. This game has upset written all over it.

#### Chicago over ARIZONA by 5

Another battle of NFL midget QBs was between Kyler Murray and Caleb Williams, who were each the No.1 overall choices in their respective NFL drafts. FYI: Willams may list himself as 6' 1" on his Wikipedia page, but it's an exaggeration if he's an inch over 5' 11". To his credit, Williams has put new life into a group of Bears in hibernation. Ironically, the 4-3 Bears reside in last place in the NFC North while the 4-4 Cardinals are tied atop the NFC West. Nonetheless, Chicago enters with a jaw-dropping **14-2 ATS** dog-log in games when coming to a loss, while Arizona is a puny 3-9 ATS when laying points the past four seasons. Toss in Zona's **0-5 ATS** ledger against the NFC West, and we have another upset in the making.

#### 3★ BEST BET SEATTLE over LA Rams by 10

The Seahawks have dropped each of their last three home games while surrendering season-high yardage in three of their previous four contests. That makes them a hard swallow here today. They are, especially considering Seattle allowed Buffalo 28 first downs, the most by a Seahawk opponent this season. The 32 rushing yards they gained in the game were a season-low. The lone highlight from the game was the 61.25 net yards on Michael Dickson's four punts, the best of his career. The return this week of starting RT Abraham Lucas is a good start. And the return of star WR DJ Metcalf this week was looking optimistic, per head coach Mike Macdonald. In his ten games against the Rams in his career, Metcalf has caught 46 passes for 667 yards and six touchdowns. After blowing a 3-0 start and now technically in third place in the NFC West, Macdonald knows the importance of this contest. He needs to know Seattle is 9-1 ATS against opponents coming off a Thursday game, as well as 10-3 ATS before their Bye week. It ties nicely into the Rams' 1-6 ATS record after playing on a Thursday and its 0-3 ATS mark when coming off an outright win as a home dog. But foremost, we turn it over to THE CLINCHER: See Marc's BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW "Darlin' Be Home Soon" Awesome Angle on page 2.

#### 5\* BEST BET GREEN BAY over Detroit by 10

Somehow, the Lions turned 85 passing yards into 52 points as QB Jared Goff didn't take a snap in the 4Q of last week's 52-14 trouncing of Tennessee. His 85 passing yards were the secondfewest of his career. It was all special teams for the "Mouths That Roared," as Kalif Raymond had 190 yards and a touchdown on punt returns. The Lions (6-1) forced four takeaways and gave away none as Detroit started five possessions inside Tennessee's 30-yard line, giving it one short field after another to continue racking up the score. Their win marks the first time since 1941 that a team has scored 50 or more points while totaling less than 225 yards. The Detroit News reported that it was complete and utter domination. Excuse us, but nothing could be further from the truth. Detroit posted just 225 yards of offense while being outyarded by -191 yards. Afterward, the head coach went so far as to say, "That's what champions do." With it. Detroit is 6-1 for the first time since 1956. And with it, over their last four games, the Lions are now averaging 43 points per game. Sheesh. While being out-yarded in half of its six wins this season. It smells an awful lot like a regression to the mean, which could be in the offing for the crew from the Motor City. With the Packers 6-2 ATS against .850 or greater opponents, we smell a live dog. THE CLINCHER: Green Bay is 8-4 SU and 9-3 ATS versus .800 or greater opponents, including 7-0 ATS as a dog when the Packers own a .400 or greater win percentage.





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#### PHILADELPHIA over Jacksonville by 3

The Eagles put together a second successive complete game in last week's 37-17 walkover win at Cincinnati, as they have now outyarded each of their last three foes by over 100 yards each. So, is it time to say that Philly is back, or is it just a brilliant disguise (thanks, Bruce)? This much we know for sure: Dallas is on deck (**0-7-1 ATS** before the Cowboys), and the Eagles have difficulty not playing down to the level of weak opposition (**0-6 ATS** versus .250 or fewer foes). The Jags have struggled against teams from the NFC East, just 3-10 SUATS, but they are also **10-1-2 ATS** on the road in Game Nine of the season, including **5-0-1 ATS** in non-division scrapes. We'll ride the "value train" here in a battle of too much success for the Eagles and too little for the Jags.

#### Monday, November 4

#### KANSAS CITY over Tampa Bay by 13

If a novel were written to depict the state of affairs of the Chiefs this season, you'd find it in the 'fiction' section of the library. How else does one describe a team riding a 13-game win streak that has won the games by an average win margin of 7.3 points per game (one score) and an average stat margin of 45 net yards per game? You could call it a Patrick Mahomes thing, but Mahomes ranks No. 24 overall in QB Rating at 84.9 this season – the lowest in his career at this point. They continue to lose key player personnel and replace them with inferior talent, yet keep winning. Throughout it all, you know, and we know, it's really an Andy Reid thing. And speaking of Reid, he totes a **25-11 SU and 24-11-1 ATS** career mark in Monday Night games into this affair. In addition, undefeated home teams on Monday Nights are 49-24-2 ATS overall since 1980. Do you want to step in front of that? We don't. And we won't, not with Tampa **1-6 ATS** in its last seven games on Monday. Lay it if you play it.

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| ener enigier                                  |                   |                     |  |                  |                     |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Andy Iskoe<br>logical7@cox.net                | Clemson -10.5     | 12-4 / 0-0 / 20 pts | Kelly In Vegas<br>kelly@wagertalk.com        | Michigan St +7.5 | 11-5 / 0-0 / 16 pts |
| BB Documented Plays<br>www.the swami.com      | BUCCANEERS +9.5   | 9-7 / 1-0 / 14 pts  | Ken Thomson<br>ken@sportsxradio.com          | CARDINALS -0.5   | 9-7 / 0-0 / 12 pts  |
| Captain Morgan<br>playbooksports.com          | Michigan +14.5    | 9-7 / 0-0 / 13 pts  | Luis Stopa<br>stopa12@yahoo.com              | Ucla +6.5        | 8-8 / 0-0 / 13 pts  |
| Chris Thurston<br>cthurston18@gmail.com       | Syracuse +4.5     | 7-9 / 1-0 / 13 pts  | Marco D'Angelo<br>marco@wagertalk.com        | NY JETS -0.5     | 10-6 / 0-0 / 16 pts |
| <b>CR Plays</b><br>jeffparetts@gmail.com      | EAGLES -7.5       | 11-5 / 0-0 / 17 pts | Norm Hitzges<br>norm1310@gmail.com           | Army -22.5       | 10-6 / 0-0 / 16 pts |
| Doc's Sports<br>max@docsports.com             | DEN-BAL Over 44.5 | 9-7 / 0-0 / 14 pts  | Prime Sports Network<br>nanadepalma1@aol.com | BILLS -6.5       | 8-8 / 1-0 / 14 pts  |
| Dwayne Bryant<br>dbryant812@gmail.com         | COLTS +5.5        | 8-8 / 0-0 / 12 pts  | Ralph Michaels<br>calsports@aol.com          | Florida +16.5    | 8-8 / 0-0 / 14 pts  |
| James Patrick<br>jamespatricksports@gmail.com | Pitt +7.5         | 8-8 / 0-0 / 12 pts  | Ross Benjamin<br>benjaminsports@yahoo.com    | NY JETS -0.5     | 9-7 / 1-1 / 13 pts  |
| Jeff Michaels<br>jmsports@gmx.com             | Illinois +3.5     | 11-5 / 0-0 / 16 pts | Stormin' Norman<br>tica0004@hotmail.com      | Duke +20.5       | 12-4 / 0-0 / 17 pts |
| JH Sportsline<br>jhsportsline@yahoo.com       | BRONCOS +9.5      | 10-6 / 0-0 / 14 pts | Tony Mejia<br>tnyce1414@gmail.com            | Clemson -10.5    | 9-7 / 0-0 / 13 pts  |

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## THE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP: O/U STYLE

AN 'OVER / UNDER' REPORT ON THIS WEEK'S NFL CARD BY VICTOR KING All games played on this week's NFL schedule are listed below. As always, the number listed <u>first</u> is the 'OVER' and the number listed <u>second</u> is the 'UNDER'. If you like what you see, there's much more – including <u>5 NFL O/U BEST BETS</u> – inside the <u>2024 Playbook 'TOTALS' TIPSHEET'</u> by Victor King – the definitive weekly OU newsletter. A single issue is only \$11.00. Rest-of-Season subscription is \$64.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2024 "Totals Train"! **\*This week's GAME 9 Playbook O/U TREND play: Dolphins** @ Bills <u>'OVER' the TOTAL'</u>

#### 2024 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - WEEK NINE

| GAME MATCHUPS                     | KEY OVER/UNDER STATS  |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Houston (Open: 43)<br>NY JETS     | 3-1 OU Thursdays 3-1 OU L4 vs NYJ (40.8) but 0-3 OU aft div HG 1-6 OU Game 9 1-4 OU non-div RD's 4 < pts<br>5-1 OU aft div RG 11-3 OU vs AFC South 4-2 OU Thursdays but 0-3 OU bef non-conf RG 1-6 OU off SU fav loss         |
| New England (38.5)<br>TENNESSEE   | 5-0 OU off dog win 4-1 OU as non-div RD's 5 < pts 6-2 OU aft div HG but 0-4 OU Game 9 1-4 OU 1st of BB RG 8-1-1 OU L10 vs AFC East 5-2 OU L7 vs NEng (54.1) but 1-4 OU non-div HF's 5 < pts 1-3 OU Game 8                     |
| La Chargers (39)<br>CLEVELAND     | 3-0 OU L3 vs Clev (66.3) 8-3 OU off SU win 14 > pts but 0-5 OU as non-div RF's 1-7 OU aft allow 8 < pts<br>3-0 OU Game 9 9-2 OU off home dog win but 0-4 OU bef Bye 0-4-1 OU aft Balt 1-4 OU in 3rd straight HG               |
| New Orleans (46)<br>CAROLINA      | 4-0 OU aft LAC but 0-8 OU in 2nd of BB RG 1-5 OU bef div HG 1-5 OU L6 div RG 1-4 OU bef Atl 1-4 OU Game 9<br>5-1 OU bef NYG but 1-7 OU L8 vs NOrl (35.2) 1-7 OU L8 div HG 3-8 OU Game 9 2-5 OU aft non-conf RG                |
| Miami (48)<br>BUFFALO             | 8-1 OU Game 8 7-1 OU as dogs 5 > pts 6-1 OU aft Ariz 5-1 OU bef Monday gm 5-1 OU aft non-conf HG<br>4-0 OU home off SU win 21 > pts 3-0 OU bef Indy 7-1-1 OU L9 home vs Mia (57.1) 5-1 OU L6 div HG                           |
| Dallas (48.5)<br>ATLANTA          | 3-0 OU bef Phil 4-2 OU Game 8 but 1-14 OU in 2nd of BB RG 1-5 OU vs NFC South 3-10 OU aft SF 1-6 OU L7 vs NFC East 1-5 OU as non-div HF's 2-8 OU aft div RG 3-9 OU aft TBay 2-5 OU bef NOrl                                   |
| Denver (43.5)<br>BALTIMORE        | 5-1 OU aft score 28 > pts 4-1 OU aft non-conf HG 3-1 OU off SU win 14 > pts but 0-4 OU as dogs 7 > pts<br>3-0 OU as non-div HF's 7 > pts 5-1 OU aft allow 27 > pts but 0-4 OU Game 9 2-6 OU aft div RG                        |
| Las Vegas (45.5)<br>CINCINNATI    | 5-0 OU bef Bye 8-3 OU Game 9 but 1-6 OU aft div HG 1-5 OU in 1st of BB RG 3-9 OU L12 vs AFC North 7-0 OU Game 9 4-1 OU aft non-conf HG 3-1 OU off home fav loss 3-1 OU bef Balt but 0-3 OU L3 vs LV (39.0)                    |
| Indianapolis (46)<br>MINNESOTA    | 3-0 OU vs opp off Thur gm 7-3 OU in 2nd of BB RG but 0-4 OU aft Hou 2-7 OU aft div RG 1-3 OU bef Buff<br>7-1-1 OU L9 as non-conf HF's 6-1 OU off DD road loss but -4 OU aft Thur RG 1-4 OU L5 vs Indy 3-8 OU Game 8           |
| Washington (43.5)<br>NY GIANTS    | 7-1 OU bef non-conf HG 3-1 OU aft allow 15 < pts but 0-6 OU L6 as div RF's 1-5 OU vs opp off Monday game 0-5 OU home vs div L2Y 0-3 OU Game 9 0-3 OU aft Pit 0-3 OU bef Car 1-5 OU L6 vs Wash (35.2)                          |
| Chicago (46)<br>ARIZONA           | 6-1 OU L7 vs NFC West 3-1 OU Game 8 7-3 OU bef non-conf HG but 0-3 OU in 2nd of BB RG 3-9 OU aft Wash 4-0 OU aft non-conf RG 6-1 OU L7 vs Chi (49.8) 4-1 OU Game 9 6-2 OU in 1st of BB HG but 2-5 OU aft Mia                  |
| La Rams (48)<br>SEATTLE           | 3-0 OU L3 div RG 4-2 OU off home dog win but 1-5 OU L6 vs Sea (39.0) 2-7 OU bef Mon gm 3-8 OU Game 8<br>13-3 OU Game 9 3-1 OU aft score 10 < pts but 0-4 OU bef Bye 3-9 OU L12 div HG 2-5 OU off DD home loss                 |
| Detroit (50.5)<br>GEEEN BAY       | 4-0 OU aft non-conf HG 4-0 OU aft score 40 > pts 10-2 OU off SU win 21 > pts 5-2 OU L7 div RG but 1-3 OU aft Ten 3-1 OU home vs Det (51.2) 3-1 OU aft non-conf RG 9-3 OU bef Chi but 1-6 OU vs sing div revenge 1-5 OU Game 9 |
| Jacksonville (47)<br>PHILADELPHIA | 4-1 OU L5 non-conf RG 3-1 OU aft GB 3-1 OU aft score 27 > pts but 0-5 OU Game 9 2-6 OU aft non-conf HG 3-0 OU Game 8 7-1 OU aft non-conf RG 5-1 OU aft score 35 > pts 7-2 OU L9 non-conf HG but 2-4 OU bef Dal                |
| Tampa Bay (45)<br>KANSAS CITY     | 5-2 OU as non-conf RD's but 0-4 OU Game 9 1-5 OU away off BB HG 1-3 OU on Mondays 2-5 OU off SU div loss 4-2 OU L6 vs TBay but 0-4 OU Game 8 1-8 OU on Mondays 1-4 OU aft div RG 1-5 OU non-div HF's 7 > pts                  |
| Bye Week<br>Bye Week              | Pittsburgh Steelers<br>San Francisco 49ers  |

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### **KENNY WHITE'S 2024 FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS**

Power Ratings courtesy of KennyWhiteSports.com

| Rnk: Overall rank nationally (130 teams) • <u>PWR</u> : Numerical team power rating • <u>HF</u> : Num |                         |                          |       |     |     |                | Nume              | rical home field | value |     |                |                          |       |     |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|-----|----------------|--------------------------|-------|-----|
| Rnk   | School                  | Conference               | PWR   | HF  | Rnk | School         | Conference        | PWR              | HF    | Rnk | School         | Conference               | PWR   | HF  |
| 124   | Air Force               | Mountain West            | 91    | 4.5 |     | N              | CAA               |                  |       | 54  | Rutgers        | Big Ten                  | 109   | 4.5 |
| 127   | Akron                   | Mid-American             | 90    | 2   | 40  | Kansas         | Big 12            | 113              | 4.5   | 105 | -              | Conference USA           | 97    | 3.5 |
| 5   | Alabama                 | Southeastern             | 127.5 | 6   | 14  | Kansas St      | Big 12            | 119              | 5.5   | 109 | San Diego St   | Mountain West            | 96    | 3.5 |
| 90  | Appalachian St          | Sun Belt                 | 100.5 | 4.5 | 133 | Kennesaw St    | Conference USA    | 85               | 3.5   | 97  | San Jose St    | Mountain West            | 99.5  | 4.5 |
| 47  | Arizona                 | Big-12                   | 111   | 5   | 134 | Kent St        | Mid-American      | 80.5             | 4     | 18  | SMU            | Atlantic Coast           | 117.5 | 4.5 |
| 61  | Arizona St              | Big-12                   | 107.5 | 3.5 | 23  | Kentucky       | Southeastern      | 115              | 4     | 88  | South Alabama  | Sun Belt                 | 101   | 3   |
| 28  | Arkansas                | Southeastern             | 114.5 | 4.5 | 59  | Liberty        | Conference USA    | 108              | 4     | 30  | South Carolina | Southeastern             | 114   | 5.5 |
| 100   | Arkansas St             | Sun Belt                 | 99    | 3.5 | 64  | Louisiana      | Sun Belt          | 107              | 3.5   | 122 | Southern Miss  | Sun Belt                 | 93.5  | 4   |
| 70  | Army                    | American Athletic        | 105.5 | 3.5 | 114 | Louisiana Tech | Conference USA    | 95               | 4.5   | 97  | Stanford       | Atlantic Coast           | 99.5  | 4   |
| 19  | Auburn                  | Southeastern             | 116.5 | 5.5 | 14  | Louisville     | Atlantic Coast    | 119              | 5.5   | 52  | Syracuse       | Atlantic Coast           | 109.5 | 5   |
| 131   | Ball St                 | Mid-American             | 88    | 3   | 10  | LSU            | Southeastern      | 122              | 6     | 21  | TCU            | Big 12                   | 116   | 5.5 |
| 30  | Baylor                  | Big 12                   | 114   | 4   | 93  | Marshall       | Sun Belt          | 100              | 4     | 127 | Temple         | American Athletic        | 90    | 3   |
| 19  | Boise St                | Mountain West            | 116.5 | 5.5 | 54  | Maryland       | Big Ten           | 109              | 4.5   | 7   | Tennessee      | Southeastern             | 126.5 | 6   |
| 72  | <b>Boston College</b>   | Atlantic Coast           | 105   | 4   | 49  | Memphis        | American Athletic | 110.5            | 3     | 3   | Texas          | Southeastern             | 128   | 5.5 |
| 79  | Bowling Green           | Mid-American             | 103   | 2   | 9   | Miami (FL)     | Atlantic Coast    | 125              | 3.5   | 17  | Texas A&M      | Southeastern             | 118   | 6   |
| 125   | Buffalo                 | Mid-American             | 90.5  | 3   | 74  | Miami (OH)     | Mid-American      | 104              | 2.5   | 54  | Texas St       | Sun Belt                 | 109   | 4   |
| 23  | BYU                     | Big 12                   | 115   | 5   | 38  | Michigan       | Big Ten           | 113.5            | 5.5   | 58  | Texas Tech     | Big 12                   | 108.5 | 5.5 |
| 40  | California              | Atlantic Coast           | 113   | 4   | 52  | Michigan St    | Big Ten           | 109.5            | 4.5   | 79  | Toledo         | Mid-American             | 103   | 4   |
| 120   | C Michigan              | Mid-American             | 94    | 2.5 | 130 | Middle Tenn St | Conference USA    | 89.5             | 3.5   | 108 | Troy           | Sun Belt                 | 96.5  | 4   |
| 105   | Charlotte               | American Athletic        | 97    | 2.5 | 51  | Minnesota      | Big Ten           | 110              | 5     | 46  | Tulane         | <b>American Athletic</b> | 111.5 | 3   |
| 54  | Cincinnati              | Big 12                   | 109   | 4.5 | 93  | Mississippi St | Southeastern      | 100              | 5     | 123 | Tulsa          | <b>American Athletic</b> | 92    | 3.5 |
| 12  | Clemson                 | Atlantic Coast           | 120.5 | 5.5 | 21  | Missouri       | Southeastern      | 116              | 5     | 112 | UAB            | <b>American Athletic</b> | 95.5  | 4.5 |
| 84  | <b>Coastal Carolina</b> | Sun Belt                 | 101.5 | 3.5 | 76  | Navy           | American Athletic | 103.5            | 4     | 30  | UCF            | Big 12                   | 114   | 4.5 |
| 30  | Colorado                | Big 12                   | 114   | 4.5 | 64  | NC State       | Atlantic Coast    | 107              | 4.5   | 61  | UCLA           | Big Ten                  | 107.5 | 3.5 |
| 100   | Colorado St             | Mountain West            | 98    | 4.5 | 30  | Nebraska       | Big Ten           | 114              | 5     | 84  | UConn          | Independent              | 101.5 | 3.5 |
| 76  | Duke                    | Atlantic Coast           | 103.5 | 4.5 | 109 | Nevada         | Mountain West     | 96               | 4     | 117 | UL-Monroe      | Sun Belt                 | 94.5  | 3   |
| 93  | East Carolina           | <b>American Athletic</b> | 100   | 4   | 97  | New Mexico     | Mountain West     | 99.5             | 3     | 127 | UMass          | Independent              | 90    | 2   |
| 117   | E Michigan              | Mid-American             | 94.5  | 2   | 131 | New Mexico St  | Conference USA    | 88               | 4     | 43  | UNLV           | Mountain West            | 112   | 3   |
| 30  | Florida                 | Southeastern             | 114   | 5.5 | 59  | North Carolina | Atlantic Coast    | 108              | 4.5   | 12  | USC            | Big Ten                  | 120.5 | 5.5 |
| 114   | Florida Atlantic        | <b>American Athletic</b> | 95    | 3   | 81  | North Texas    | American Athletic | 102.5            | 3.5   | 82  | USF            | <b>American Athletic</b> | 102   | 3   |
| 120   | Florida Int'l           | Conference USA           | 94    | 2.5 | 84  | No Illinois    | Mid-American      | 101.5            | 3.5   | 40  | Utah           | Big 12                   | 113   | 5.5 |
| 61  | Florida St              | American Coast           | 107.5 | 6   | 84  | Northwestern   | Big Ten           | 101.5            | 3     | 112 | Utah St        | Mountain West            | 95.5  | 4   |
| 74  | Fresno St               | Mountain West            | 104   | 4.5 | 10  | Notre Dame     | Independent       | 122              | 5.5   | 125 | UTEP           | Conference USA           | 90.5  | 3   |
| 1   | Georgia                 | Southeastern             | 130   | 6.5 | 2   | Ohio State     | Big Ten           | 129.5            | 6.5   | 76  | UTSA           | American Athletic        | 103.5 | 3   |
| 100   | Geo Southern            | Sun Belt                 | 98    | 4   | 104 | Ohio U         | Mid-American      | 97.5             | 4.5   | 66  | Vanderbilt     | Southeastern             | 106.5 | 4   |
| 114   | Georgia St              | Sun Belt                 | 95    | 2   | 23  | Oklahoma       | Southeastern      | 115              | 5.5   | 66  | Virginia       | Atlantic Coast           | 106.5 | 4   |
| 47  | Georgia Tech            | Atlantic Coast           | 111   | 4.5 | 43  | Oklahoma St    | Big 12            | 112              | 5     | 30  | Virginia Tech  | Atlantic Coast           | 114   | 5   |
| 109   | Hawaii                  | Mountain West            | 96    | 4.5 | 93  | Old Dominion   | Sun Belt          | 100              | 2.5   | 73  | Wake Forest    | Atlantic Coast           | 104.5 | 4.5 |
| 70  | Houston                 | Big 12                   | 105.5 | 4   | 7   | Ole Miss       | Southeastern      | 126.5            | 5.5   | 38  | Washington     | Big Ten                  | 113.5 | 5.5 |
| 49  | Illinois                | Big Ten                  | 110.5 | 4.5 | 3   | Oregon         | Big Ten           | 128              | 5.5   | 68  | Washington St  | Pac-12                   | 106   | 4   |
| 23  | Indiana                 | Big Ten                  | 115   | 4.5 | 82  | Oregon St      | Pac-12            | 102              | 5.5   | 30  | West Virginia  | Big 12                   | 114   | 5.5 |
| 23  | lowa                    | Big Ten                  | 115   | 5   | 6   | Penn St        | Big Ten           | 127              | 6     | 90  | W Kentucky     | Conference USA           | 100.5 | 4   |
| 14  | lowa St                 | Big 12                   | 119   | 5.5 | 43  | Pitt           | Atlantic Coast    | 112              | 4.5   | 105 | W Michigan     | Mid-American             | 97    | 4   |
| 88  | Jacksonville St         | Conference USA           | 101   | 5.5 | 90  | Purdue         | Big Ten           | 100.5            | 4.5   | 28  | Wisconsin      | Big Ten                  | 114.5 | 5.5 |
| 68  | James Madison           | Sun Belt                 | 106   | 4.5 | 100 | Rice           | American Athletic | 98               | 3     | 117 | Wyoming        | Mountain West            | 94.5  | 5   |
|   |                         |                          |       |     |     |                |                   |                  |       |     |                |                          |       |     |

Rnk: Overall rank in NFL • PWR: Numerical team power rating • HF: Numerical home field value

| Rn | k Team                   | Conf/Div         | PWR   | HF  | Rnk | Team                        | Conf/Div         | / PWR HF  |                   | Rnk       | Team                       | Conf/Div  | PWR   | HF  |
|----|--------------------------|------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|-------|-----|
| 26 | Arizona Cardinals        | NFC West         | 98    | 2.5 |     | NF                          | =L               | 22        | Minnesota Vikings | NFC North | 99.5                       | 1.5       |       |     |
| 12 | Atlanta Falcons          | NFC South        | 102.5 | 2.5 |     |                             |                  |           |                   |           | New England Pats           | AFC East  | 94.5  | 1.5 |
| 3  | <b>Baltimore Ravens</b>  | <b>AFC North</b> | 107.5 | 3.5 | 13  | Houston Texans              | AFC South        | 102       | 2.5               | 29        | New Orleans Saints         | NFC South | 96.5  | 2   |
| 6  | <b>Buffalo Bills</b>     | AFC East         | 106   | 3   | 22  | Indianapolis Colts          | <b>AFC South</b> | 99.5      | 2                 | 27        | N.Y. Giants                | NFC East  | 97.5  | 1.5 |
| 32 | <b>Carolina Panthers</b> | NFC South        | 91.5  | 1.5 | 17  | <b>Jacksonville Jaguars</b> | AFC South        | 100.5     | 1.5               | 12        | N.Y. Jets                  | AFC East  | 102.5 | 2   |
| 17 | Chicago Bears            | NFC North        | 100.5 | 2.5 | 1   | Kansas City Chiefs          | AFC West         | 112       | 2                 | 3         | Philadelphia Eagles        | NFC East  | 107.5 | 1.5 |
| 7  | Cincinnati Bengals       | AFC North        | 103.5 | 2   | 24  | Las Vegas Raiders           | AFC West         | 99        | 2.5               | 7         | <b>Pittsburgh Steelers</b> | AFC North | 103.5 | 1.5 |
| 17 | <b>Cleveland Browns</b>  | <b>AFC North</b> | 100.5 | 2.5 | 12  | L.A. Chargers               | AFC West         | 102.5     | 1.5               | 3         | San Francisco 49ers        | NFC West  | 107.5 | 1.5 |
| 10 | Dallas Cowboys           | NFC East         | 103   | 3   | 25  | L.A. Rams                   | NFC West         | 98.5      | 2                 | 13        | Seattle Seahawks           | NFC West  | 102   | 1.5 |
| 17 | Denver Broncos           | AFC West         | 100.5 | 2.5 | 17  | Miami Dolphins              | AFC East         | 100.5     | 2.5               | 29        | Tampa Bay Bucs             | NFC South | 96.5  | 2   |
| 2  | Detroit Lions            | NFC North        | 108   | 2.5 |     |                             |                  |           |                   | 27        | Tennessee Titans           | AFC South | 97.5  | 2   |
| 7  | Green Bay Packers        | NFC North        | 103.5 | 2.5 | Su  | bscribe to the Playbook F   | ootball Newsl    | etter Tod | ay!               | 10        | Wash Commanders            | NFC East  | 103   | 1.5 |

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| THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT<br>STAR-RATED BEST BET SELECTIONS |              |             |  |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--------------|-------------|--|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FOR WEEK END<br>NOVEMBE   |              | 3★ BEST BET | 4★ BEST BET                              | 5★ BEST BET |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| +   | COLLEGE      | DUKE        | SOUTH CAROLINA                           | WASHINGTON  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | NFL SEAHAWKS |             | BRONCOS                                  | PACKERS     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | UPSET GAME   | ARKANSAS    | SUBSCRIBE TO PLAYBOOK TODAY 800.752.9266 |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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#### 2024 COLLEGE & PRO FOOTBALL - OCTOBER 29 - NOV 4

Listed next to the games below are two entries: <u>OL</u> is the opening line on the contest and <u>PB</u> is the PLAYBOOK margin. You have a PLAYBOOK Recommendation whenever our predicted margin of victory is 6 or more points off the opening line. Remember, opening lines are subject to change during the week so always check YOUR CURRENT LINE against the PLAYBOOK line to determine a final play.

All times listed are Eastern Standard Time (Red type indicates time change) • Games in Official International Rotation sequence • Dates & times subject to change

|     |   | OL    | PB         | -       |  | OL  | PB |         |                            | OL  | PB | -  |                             | OL    | PB    |  |
|-----|---|-------|------------|---------|--|-----|----|---------|----------------------------|-----|----|----|-----------------------------|-------|-------|--|
|     |   |       | 10         | 327     | ARIZONA                                  | UL  |    | 363     | ARIZONA ST FS1             | 1   | 4  |    |                             |       |       |  |
|     | TUESDAY, OCTO                               | OBER  | 29         | 328     | 3:30 PM<br>UCF FS1                       | 6   | 10 | 364     | 7:00 PM<br>OKLAHOMA ST     |     | -  |    | SUNDAY, NOVE                | MBE   | R 3   |  |
| 301 | NEW MEXICO ST                               |       | 3          | 329     | AIR FORCE                                |     |    | 365     | PITTSBURGH                 |     |    | 45 |                             |       |       |  |
| 302 | 7:00 PM<br>FLA INT'L CBSSN                  | 7     |            | 330     | 12:00 PM<br>ARMY CBS                     | 23′ | 17 | 366     | 8:00 PM<br>SMU ACC         | 7   | 11 | 45 | 1:00 PM<br>2 TENNESSEE FOX  | 3     | 6     |  |
| 303 | LA TECH ESPNU                               |       |            | 331     | VANDERBILT                               |     |    | 367     | NAVY                       | 12  | 8  | 45 | B LA CHARGERS               | 2′    |       |  |
| 304 | 8:00 PM<br>SAM HOUSTON                      | 10'   | 1          | <br>332 | 12:45 PM<br>AUBURN SEC                   | 6′  | 3  | <br>368 | 4:00 PM<br>RICE ESPN2      |     |    | 45 | 1:00 PM<br>CLEVELAND CBS    |       | 3     |  |
| 305 | LOUISIANA                                   |       |            | 333     | OLE MISS                                 | 5′  |    | <br>369 | TULSA                      |     |    | 45 |                             | 7     |       |  |
| 306 | 7:30 PM<br>TEXAS ST ESPN2                   | 3     | 10         | <br>334 | 12:00 PM<br>ARKANSAS★ESPN                |     | 6  | 370     | 2:30 PM<br>UAB ESPN+       | 3   | 1  | 45 | 1:00 PM<br>5 CAROLINA CBS   |       | 1     |  |
|     |   |       |            | 335     | UL MONROE                                |     |    | 371     | KANSAS ST                  | 12′ | 6  | 45 | 7 MIAMI                     |       |       |  |
|     | NEDNESDAY, OC                               | TOBI  | ER 30      | 336     | 3:30 PM<br>MARSHALL ESPN+                | 11  | 7  | 372     | 3:30 PM<br>HOUSTON FOX     |     |    | 45 | 1:00 PMBUFFALOCBS           | 6     | 10    |  |
| 307 | JACKSONVILLE ST<br>7:00 PM                  |       | 3          | 337     | DUKE ★<br>12:00 PM                       |     | 1  | 373     | COASTAL CARO               | 5   | 8  | 45 | DALLAS                      |       | 1     |  |
| 308 | LIBERTY CBSSN                               | 1     |            | 338     | MIAMI FLA ABC                            | 20  |    | 374     | 4:00 PM<br>TROY ESPN+      |     |    | 46 |                             | 2′    |       |  |
| 309 | KENN ST ESPN2                               |       |            | 339     | BUFFALO                                  |     | 5  | 375     | GA SOUTHERN                |     |    | 46 |                             |       | 6     |  |
| 310 | 7:30 PM<br>W KENTUCKY                       | 24    | 28         | 340     | 12:00 PM<br>AKRON CBSSN                  | Pk  |    | 376     | 7:30 PM<br>S Alabama Espnu | 6   | 10 | 46 | 1:00 PM<br>BALTIMORE CBS    | 9     |       |  |
|     |   |       | D 71       | 341     | TOLEDO ESPNU                             | 8   | 3  | 377     | USC BTN                    | 2′  |    | 46 |                             |       |       |  |
|     | THURSDAY, OCT                               | ORF   | к 31       | 342     | 12:00 PM<br>E MICHIGAN                   |     |    | 378     | 7:30 PM<br>WASHINGTON ★    |     | 10 | 46 | 1:00 PM<br>4 CINCINNATI FOX | 8′    | 4     |  |
| 311 | HOUSTON                                     |       |            | 343     | TCU                                      |     | 3  | 379     | WISCONSIN                  |     | 6  | 46 |                             |       | 4     |  |
| 312 | 8:15 PM<br>NY JETS PRIME                    | Pk    | 7          | 344     | 8:00 PM<br>BAYLOR ESPN2                  | 3   |    | 380     | 7:30 PM<br>IOWA NBC        | 3′  |    | 46 | 8:20 PM<br>5 MINNESOTA NBC  | 6′    |       |  |
| 399 | TULANE                                      | 16    | 11         | 345     | NORTHWESTERN                             | 2   | 4  | 381     | UCLA                       |     |    | 46 |                             | 3     |       |  |
| 400 | 7:30 PM (Location Change)<br>CHARLOTTE ESPN |       |            | 346     | 12:00 PM<br>PURDUE BTN                   |     |    | 382     | 3:30 PM<br>NEBRASKA BTN    | 7   | 13 | 46 | 1:00 PM<br>NY GIANTS FOX    |       | 3     |  |
|     |   |       | <b>D</b> 1 | 347     | MINNESOTA                                | 2′  |    | 383     | OREGON                     | 14′ | 8  | 46 |                             |       | 5     |  |
|     | FRIDAY, NOVE                                | NRF   | кі         | 348     | 12:00 PM<br>ILLINOIS FS1                 |     | 3  | 384     | 3:30 PM<br>MICHIGAN CBS    |     |    | 47 | 4:05 PM<br>ARIZONA CBS      | 1′    |       |  |
| 315 | GEORGIA ST                                  |       |            | 349     | INDIANA Peacock                          | 7   |    | 385     | WYOMING truTV              |     |    | 47 |                             |       |       |  |
| 316 | 7:00 PM<br>UCONN CBSSN                      | 7     | 3          | 350     | 3:30 PM<br>MICHIGAN ST                   |     | 1  | 386     | 4:00 PM<br>NEW MEXICO      | 6   | 3  | 47 | 4:25 PM<br>SEATTLE ★ FOX    | 1′    | 10    |  |
| 317 | S FLORIDA ESPN2<br>7:30 PM                  | 2     | 6          | 351     | N CAROLINA<br>3:30 PM                    | 1′  |    | 387     | UMASS                      |     |    | 47 | B DETROIT<br>4:25 PM        | 4′    |       |  |
| 318 | FLA ATLANTIC                                |       |            | 352     | FLORIDA ST ACC                           |     | 3  | 388     | 4:15 PM<br>MISS STATE SEC  | 18  | 13 | 47 |                             |       | 10    |  |
| 319 | SAN DIEGO ST                                |       |            | 353     | FLORIDA                                  |     |    | 389     | TEXAS A&M                  | 3′  |    | 47 |                             |       |       |  |
| 320 | 8:00 PM<br>BOISE ST FS1                     | 23′   | 19         | 354     | 3:30 PM (Jacksonville,FL)<br>GEORGIA ABC | 16  | 8  | 390     | 7:30 PM<br>S CAROLINA ABC  |     | 8  | 47 | 4:05 PM<br>PHILADELPHIA CBS | 7     | 3     |  |
|     | CATURDAY NOV                                |       | ED 2       | 355     | STANFORD                                 |     |    | 391     | KENTUCKY                   |     |    |    |                             |       | .D. 4 |  |
|     | SATURDAY, NOV                               | EINIR | EK Z       | 356     | 12:00 PM<br>NC STATE ACC                 | 10  | 14 | 392     | 7:45 PM<br>TENNESSEE SEC   | 16  | 10 |    | MONDAY, NOVE                | INIRE | :K 4  |  |
| 321 | VIRGINIA TECH                               | 3′    |            | 357     | MEMPHIS                                  | 7′  | 3  | 393     | HAWAII                     |     |    | 47 |                             |       |       |  |
| 322 | 12:00 PM<br>SYRACUSE CW                     |       | 6          | 358     | 12:00 PM<br>UTSA ESPN2                   |     |    | 394     | 7:00 PM<br>FRESNO ST       | 13  | 18 | 47 | 8:15 PM<br>KANSAS CITY ABC  | 9     | 13    |  |
| 323 | LOUISVILLE                                  |       |            | 359     | MIDDLE TENN ST                           |     | 1  | 395     | COLORADO ST                | 1   | 5  |    | BYES: PITTSBURGH            | STEE  | LERS. |  |
| 324 | 7:30 PM<br>CLEMSON ESPN                     | 11    | 8          | 360     | 3:30 PM<br>UTEP CBSSN                    | 3   |    | 396     | 8:00 PM<br>NEVADA CBSSN    |     |    |    | SAN FRANCISCO               |       |       |  |
| 325 | OLD DOMINION                                | 2′    |            | 361     | TEXAS TECH                               |     |    | 397     | OHIO ST                    | 4′  | 1  |    |                             |       |       |  |
| 326 | 2:30 PM<br>APP STATE ESPN+                  |       | 8          | 362     | 3:30 PM<br>IOWA ST ESPN                  | 14′ | 10 | 398     | 12:00 PM<br>PENN ST FOX    |     |    |    |                             |       |       |  |
|     |   |       |            |         |  |     |    |         |                            |     |    |    |                             |       |       |  |