Marc's 10-Star College Football Game of the Year Goes Saturday

UPSET HEAVEN!
HOT 7-1 UPSET RUN

100% ATS AWESOME ANGLE INSIDE

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*Well, she got her daddy's car
And she cruised through the
hamburger stand,
Seems she forgot all about the library
Like she told her old man, now
And with the radio blasting goes
Cruising just as fast as she can now*

Hands down, the best music video performance last year occurred when the Grammys paid a special tribute to the Beach Boys. It aired on CBS in April and is now available to watch commercial-free if you subscribe to Paramount Plus. I highly recommend checking it out.

Not only can you watch legendary artists perform the Beach Boys classics, but you also come to appreciate them for who they are as singers. Performances by Beck, Brandi Carlile, the Fall Out Boys, Hanson, Jim James and My Morning Jacket, Norah Jones, Lady A, John Legend, Michael McDonald, Pentatonix, Charlie Puth. LeAnn Rimes and Wheezer, among others, are off the charts.

However, the act that stole the show – and still gives me goosebumps every time I watch them perform – was Luke Spiller of The Struts and Taylor Momsen, a former actress and lead singer of the band Pretty Reckless. Together, they sang a duo of two songs, Fun, Fun, Fun, and Surfin' Safari, when they sang and danced their way to our hearts with an epic performance.

Surfin' Safari was the Beach Boys' debut single. It laid the foundation for their successful career and established them as pioneers of the surf rock genre. The song's success opened doors for the band, leading to a string of hits and their emergence as one of the most influential groups of the 1960s.

Meanwhile, "Fun, Fun, Fun" achieved significant chart success, reaching number five on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. It tells the story of a teenager who borrows her father's car under the pretense of going to the library but instead goes off to have fun. The song captures the desire for freedom and rebellion often associated with teenagers. The relatable narrative struck a chord with audiences, making "Fun, Fun, Fun" an instant classic.

Speaking of having fun, it's all that and more for college football teams coming off three consecutive revenge wins in a row. The problem is that they end up on a Surfin' Safari that often leads them into troubled waters, especially when they take on winning opponents.

It sets up a winning proposition that's too difficult to pass, especially if we were to –

> **PLAY AGAINST any college football team from Game Ten out coming off three consecutive revenge wins in a row if they are facing a .400 or greater opponent.**

The results speak for themselves, as teams riding a fun, fun, fun revenge run are only 18-37-2 ATS in this role. When dressed as favorites of 8 or fewer points, these fun in the sun guys slip to **9-27-1**

ATS, including an overindulgent **1-12 ATS** if they won three or fewer games last season.

That puts **Baylor** in a 'bear trap' this Saturday when they face the Houston Cougars. Under first-year head coach Willie Fritz, the Cougars have a 4-6 overall record entering this contest. Rest assured, Fritz would like nothing better than to put a beatdown on the Bears and beat BYU next week to become bowl-eligible.

That would leave Willie and the boys in a "fun, fun, fun" state of grandeur. It's like the Beach Boys would say...

*She'll have fun, fun, fun
Till her daddy takes the T-bird away
Fun, fun, fun,
Till her daddy takes the T-bird away*

It's Here! My once-a-year **10-Star College Football Game of the Year** goes this Saturday – and it couldn't come at a better time. I've won 6 of the last 8 Top Plays, including four outright underdog winners.

Get it any one of two ways – for $60 on the PlaybookSports.com website this Friday any time after 2:00 PM ET, or it's included with another 10-Star Weekend of Football Winners, featuring all of my CFB and NFL releases for just $129.

Don't delay either way. Sign up now or call **800.321.7777** - you'll be glad you did! did!

Marc Lawrence

TRIVIA TEASER

2-MINUTE HANDICAP

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

College Football Games

All results are ATS – Against The Spread – and most recent, unless noted otherwise. Content contained in this report remains the exclusive private property of PLAYBOOK™, PlaybookSports.com™ and PLAYBOOK.CUBE™, and may not be reused or disseminated in any form without express written consent of the publisher.

TEAMS	KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS
Saturday, November 23	
Smu **VIRGINIA**	3-1 away off BB HG's… 0-6 Game 11… 1-6 Last Road Game / 9-1 bef Va Tech… 6-1 as HD's 7 > pts… 9-3 aft non-conf RG
Pittsburgh **LOUISVILLE**	SERIES: 8-2 L10… 0-4 bef Bost Coll… 1-4 in 1st of BB RG / 7-1 as conf HF's 13 < pts… 4-1 w/ sing conf revenge
Wake Forest **MIAMI-FLA**	SERIES: 2-0… 5-2 vs conf opp w/ rest… 0-3-1 in 2nd of BB RG / 1-4 off SU fav loss… 2-6 as conf favs 10 > pts… 3-8 w/ rest
Colorado **KANSAS**	3-1 Last Road Game… 0-3 aft Utah… 1-4 as conf RF/RD 4 < pts / SERIES: 4-1… 6-3 Last Home Game… 1-4 as conf fav/dog 4 < pts
Ole Miss **FLORIDA**	SERIES: 5-2… 5-0 as conf RF's 7 > pts… 5-2 off home dog win / 5-1 aft LSU… 1-6 in 2nd of BB HG… 3-10 vs conf opp w/ rest
Penn St **MINNESOTA**	9-0 as RF's 7 > pts… 6-1 aft Purdue… 6-1 vs sing revenge / SERIES: 3-1 L4… 6-1 vs opp w/ rest… 5-1 home w sing conf rev
Indiana **OHIO ST**	SERIES: Visitor 6-2… 3-1 Last Road Game… 1-3 w/ rest / 10-1 home vs conf opp w/ rest… 2-5 as conf favs 15 < pts
Byu **ARIZONA ST**	SERIES: 3-0 L3… 4-1 away TY… 6-2 vs .700 > opp / 5-0 as conf fav / dog 4 < pts… 8-3 vs .850 > conf opp
Kentucky **TEXAS**	6-0 Last Road Game… 16-3 aft non-conf HG… 2-5 Game 11 / 5-1 Last Home Game… 7-3 as conf favs 14 > pts… 4-2 Game 11
Texas A&M **AUBURN**	SERIES: 3-1 L4… 6-3 aft non-conf HG… 1-5 L6 as conf RF's / 4-1 home w/ sing conf revenge… 2-7 aft non-conf HG
Boise State **WYOMING**	6-1-1 L8 vs .333 < opp… 5-1 Game 11… 1-4 aft San Jose St / SERIES: 4-1 L5… 6-0 as dogs 15 > pts… 6-1 vs .800 > conf opp
Army **NOTRE DAME**	5-0 aft allow 7 < pts… 4-1 Game 10… 4-1 w/ rest off SU win / SERIES: 3-0 L3… 4-1 L5 Neutral games… 10-3 vs .850 > opp
Alabama **OKLAHOMA**	3-1 bef Auburn… 1-5 aft unlined game… 1-4 aft non-conf HG / 4-1 home off conf road loss… 1-5 L6 vs .700 > conf opp

NFL Games

TEAMS	KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS
Thursday, November 21	
Pittsburgh **CLEVELAND**	SERIES: Visitor 5-0… 6-0 aft div HG… 4-1 L5 as RF's / 3-1 aft non-conf RG… 3-1 aft NOrl… 5-2 as div HD's < 10 pts
Sunday, November 24	
Detroit **INDIANAPOLIS**	SERIES: Visitor 4-0… 7-0 aft non-conf HG… 10-2 away in Domes / 10-0 L10 vs .800 > opp… 9-2 vs NFC North… 3-7 aft Jets
Kansas City **CAROLINA**	8-1 L9 non-conf RG… 8-1 bef div HG… 1-4 vs opp w/ rest / 7-3 Game 11… 0-3-1 L4 vs .800 > opp… 1-4 L5 non-conf HG
Minnesota **CHICAGO**	SERIES: Visitor 4-0… 4-1 L5 div RG… 1-3 in 3rd straight RG / 5-2 bef div RG… 1-4 in 3rd straight HG… 2-7 vs sing revenge
Dallas **WASHINGTON**	SERIES: 5-1 L6… 7-3 as dogs 7 > pts… 0-5 aft non-conf HG / 3-1 bef non-conf HG… 0-4-1 aft div RG… 2-9 L11 as div HF's
Tampa Bay **NY GIANTS**	4-1 L5 vs NFC East… 1-6 vs opp w/ rest… 1-5 aft Bye / SERIES: 4-1-1 L6… 5-0-1 vs opp w/ rest… 1-4 as HD's 6 < pts
New England **MIAMI**	0-4 aft non-conf HG… 1-5 L6 as div RD's… 1-4 away bef Bye / SERIES: 8-0 L8… 3-0 bef GB… 7-1 as div HF's < 10 pts
Tennessee **HOUSTON**	9-0 aft Min… 0-3 in 1st of BB RG… 3-6 as div RD's 4 > pts / SERIES: 6-1… 1-8 bef Jack… 1-6 L7 div HG… 1-4 aft Mon gm
Denver **LAS VEGAS**	0-4 L4 as div RF's… 1-5 bef Monday gm… 2-5 aft non-conf HG / SERIES: 6-1 L7… 5-0 bef KC… 7-2 L9 div HG… 1-4 aft Mia
Arizona **SEATTLE**	2-12 aft allow 7 < pts… 1-4 L5 div RG… 1-4 aft non-conf HG / SERIES: 4-1 L5… 4-1 vs opp w/ rest… 1-6 L7 div HG
San Francisco **GREEN BAY**	6-1 aft div HG… 0-4 vs doub revenge… 2-6 L8 vs NFC North / SERIES: 2-0 L2… 9-0 L9 vs NFC West… 6-0 aft div RG
Philadelphia. **LA RAMS**	SERIES: 7-1 L8… 4-1 bef non-conf RG… 1-6 L7 vs NFC West / 4-1 aft non-conf RG… 1-4 L5 vs NFC East… 2-6 aft NEng
Monday, November 25	
Baltimore **LA CHARGERS**	SERIES: 3-0 L3… 3-0 on Mondays L3Y… 8-3 as non-div RF's / 5-2 bef non-conf RG… 1-4 Monday HG… 2-6 in 3rd straight HG

BYES: ATLANTA, BUFFALO, CINCINNATI, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK JETS, JACKSONVILLE

THE SMART BOX

PENULTIMATE GAMES

For some college football teams, a lot of weight hangs in the balance in the second-to-last games of the season. For others, they are simply one step closer to finalizing the curtain on a season gone wrong.

The best moneymaking situation in these games occurs when we find .444 or greater underdogs taking the field with an extra week of rest.

Like the good hounds they are, they can smell a winning season in the making. Their teams are 67-30 ATS overall in this role since 1980.

Appalachian State, Duke, Indiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma, NC State, and Vanderbilt are among this week's qualifying teams. Better yet, bring them in off a win, and they elevate to 41-12 ATS, including **25-5 ATS** if they surrender fewer than 24.7 points per game.

That puts **the Blue Devils and the Hoosiers** in the spotlight on this Saturday's card. Don't let these 'ones before the last' beauties find the winners' circle without you this Saturday… be there

INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

Per @PickSixPreviews: Thirteen ranked teams own ZERO wins against currently ranked AP teams:
#3 Texas, #5 Indiana, #11 Miami, #13 SMU, #15 A&M, #16 Colorado, #17 Clemson, #18 Army, #20 Tulane, #21 ASU, #23 UNLV, #24 Illini, and #25 Wash State.

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, November 19

Western Michigan over CENTRAL MICHIGAN by 10

The Broncos have gone from unbeaten in the conference to a tie for first to looking up at the MAC standings after two straight losses. A date with their bitterest rival in Central Michigan should make WMU well again. A trip to the conference title game is out of the question, but a sixth win and bowl eligibility following last year's rough four-win season would be a treat sweeter than what you can find at Kalamazoo's legendary Sweetwater Donuts. Western is **6-0 ATS** in the series when they are the visitor, while Da Chippers are **1-5 ATS** in the last six games of the series and an equally dismal **1-6 ATS** as the dog in their final home game. It also may be the final game for Jim McElwain at Central, which could open the door for the Mount Pleasant return of… Brian Kelly. What do you think the LSU crowd is going to accept this season gracefully?

Akron over KENT STATE by 5

What? No GameDay, or whatever the name of the Fox show is? If it were up to us, this game would be the Saturday ABC Prime Time game with Fowler and Herbstreit, rules experts in the booth, and pylon cameras everywhere. Akron's two wins are 200% better than what Kent is dragging in. The opening line on this game was Kent minus 8.5, and it is now Akron -10, so as the incredibly irritating phrase goes, "If you know, you know." Are we being sentimental about the Golden Grahams? No, just the facts, ma'am. Akron is **1-6-1 ATS** in the last eight games and 5-15 ATS as conference road chalk. The Zips have beaten Colgate and Eastern Michigan, a win where Akron was outgained by nearly 300 yards. This bus trip rivalry sees Kent surprisingly competitive; they have **cashed five straight tickets** using the revenge card in this series. The revenge card is well-worn but may have one last use in it before getting tossed in the trash for good. Plus, Kent's on a roll these days; last week against Miami, they had their first lead of the season when they jumped out 7-0 in the first quarter. You know the rest. Yes, Herbstreit's private jet can land at the Akron-Canton airport, so give us a good reason why this game can't be flexed off a network with no ratings.

Northern Illinois over MIAMI-OHIO by 6

Miami is one of three tied atop the MAC standings, fighting for two spots in the title game. Northern can't make Detroit, but they can make Bowling Green and Ohio happy with a win. A RedHawks win means they could settle the score with BG next week. The Falcons have a Saturday date with Ball State. Defense will likely be the name of the game here; these teams rank 1-2 for the fewest points given up in the MAC all season (NIU 185, Miami 187). Northern must contend with the RedHawks' Social Security collecting QB in Brett Gabbert and slow top RB Keyon Mozee. We quickly remind you that NIU has already spoiled Western Michigan's chances for the title game and the Huskies are **6-0**

2024 COLLEGE FOOTBALL TOP 25 PLAYOFF RANKINGS

No.1 OREGON (11-0)

2	Ohio St	9-1	10	Georgia	8-2	18	S Carolina	7-3
3	Texas	9-1	11	Tennessee	8-2	19	Army	9-0
4	Penn St	9-1	12	Boise St	9-1	20	Tulane	9-2
5	Indiana	10-0	13	SMU	9-1	21	Arizona St	8-2
6	N Dame	9-1	14	BYU	9-1	22	Iowa St	8-2
7	Alabama	8-2	15	Texas A&M	8-2	23	Missouri	7-3
8	Miami FL	9-1	16	Colorado	8-2	24	UNLV	8-2
9	Ole Miss	8-2	17	Clemson	8-2	25	Illinois	7-3

SUATS as a dog of six or fewer when facing a team with a winning record. That is tempting enough but then sprinkle on **THE MIDWEEK ALERT**, which hands NIU the coveted acronym **"BOD,"** which is better on offense and defense. Again, we quote Frank Sinatra, who once sang the lyric, "Pardon my mush, but I've got a crush on Northern." Not sure what album that one is on.

Wednesday, November 20

Ohio over TOLEDO by 3

The Rockets' last shot at first place will be taken in Athens with Toledo a game out of the three-way tie. Since becoming Ohio's head coach, Tim Albin is 9-1 on MACtion nights. Ohio is a part of the MAC Trifecta atop the standings, but the oddsmakers are going with the Glass Bowl edge here. THE Ohio University is **11-2 ATS** as a dog if favored in the prior game and 9-2 ATS when coming off a double-digit ATS win. All Jason Candle's men can offer is a burnt-out **2-9 ATS** when coming off a conference home game and a weak **3-16-1 ATS** coming off a win and next facing a team .500 or better. Ohio QB Parker Navarro has overcome his 7 TD 8 INT season with nine rushing scores, which thrusts **THE MIDWEEK ALERT** into overdrive, reminding us all that Ohio has the **"BOD"** advantage on Toledo, whose heart of glass may be shattered, shattered, sha dooby shattered, shattered all over the Glass Bowl.

EASTERN MICHIGAN over Buffalo by 6

Buffy slayed their last two opponents despite being outgained in both wins and nailed down Bull eligibility with win #6. Eastern (5-5) hasn't reached that lofty goal yet, and in front of their "crowd" in Ypsilanti, they should be bringing more passion than Buffalo. The key to the game is whether EMU can keep talented QB Cole Snyder from a near-certain death. Snyder has been sacked 28 times in 2024 and has still completed 60% of his passes with a 12:6 TD/INT ratio and had the strength to run for four touchdowns. The Eagles are **3-0 SUATS** in their last home games against winning teams, while Buffalo is **1-11 ATS** in its last dozen Tuesday-Wednesday shows. We are also unimpressed with Da Bulls being **2-10 ATS** when both teams are coming off a home game. We have not forgotten about the Green Team from The Gray Field losing three straight. Still, with Buffalo already assured of another game and Eastern needing a win, we will side with the more desperate, fierce, furious, dire, and critical team tonight. Thank you thesauras.com.

Thursday, November 21

3★ BEST BET

NC State over GEORGIA TECH by 3

No faith in the recent conquerors of previously unbeaten Miami? Nope. Tech has been a wreck when coming off a game like that, going **2-9 ATS** as the favorite when they were a dog in the last game. Worse, beating Miami seems to send Ga. Tech into a stupor, going **0-5-1 ATS** at home in games following a win over the Hurricanes. Should we even mention that Tech has rival Georgia next? It is one of those rivalries where one school is angry while the larger, more famous one acts like it doesn't have time for the other team. Georgia fans will list Florida, Auburn, and Clemson long before they remember Georgia Tech. The Wolfpack are among the many 5-5 teams needing that one more win for a bowl game, and they have a **9-2 ATS** mark in ACC games vs. a team coming off an ACC tilt. Wolfpack QB CJ Bailey has six TD passes and just one pick in his last three starts. We're doubling down on the Raleigh Gang with a one-two punch combination that, unlike the Tyson-Paul "fight," will actually land. First, **THE SMART BOX** with a straight right hand on Page 3, followed by the vicious left hook we call **THE CLINCHER, which points out NCSU is 24-5 ATS with rest in conference play since 1997, and that includes a hefty 11-1 SUATS, versus .600 or worse opponents**. Even a Las Vegas boxing judge can see a clear-cut unanimous decision here.

UTSA over Temple by 20

Rarely will a coach get sacked after a win, but Temple dumped Stan Drayton after knocking off FAU last week…and then Florida Atlantic kicked Tom Herman to the unemployment line. The major discussion around Temple football these days is whether to continue the program. University enrollment is down, and the Philly Owls are back to fielding poor teams with weaker fan interest. Hard to imagine them getting psyched to finish the season, especially against a UTSA team aiming for bowl eligibility and with Army on deck. The Roadrunners dropped the anvil on North Texas last week with a program-record **681 total yards, 379 from the arm of QB Owen McCown**, and there's no reason to suspect that momentum won't carry into the Alamodome. Yes, Temple is 6-2 ATS in the last road games for the season, but this aimless program is possibly wandering towards a lower level or even extinction, and that's brain luggage no team should have to carry into a game.

MICHIGAN STATE over Purdue by 17

Speaking of firing coaches, is Ryan Walters in trouble at Purdue? In just his second season, Walters has stood over a program that's fallen from West Division champs to one of the poorest teams in the nation. Only two other times has Purdue gone without a Big 10 win since 1946 but 2024 may be added to the list. The qualifications for firing are **0-9 vs FBS teams** and three times a 30-plus point underdog only to **lose those games by a combined 129-10**. Purdue's offense is ranked 128th out of 133 FBS teams at 17.2 points per game and has been shut out in two of its last four contests. They are also 122nd in total offense, 128th in first downs, and 121st in total defense. It's not like the Spartans are a powerhouse, but at 4-6, a two-game win streak will earn them a bowl berth. How bad is it for MSU lately? QB Aiden Chiles has been sacked 26 times in his last six games, while the Spartans defense hasn't recorded a sack in those same six games. After starting 3-0, they're 1-6 and on an 0-3 SUATS streak, plus **8-1 ATS** on Friday's. Head Coach Jonathan Smith has been reminding folks in E. Lansing about his **3-0 ATS** home mark in his career when coming off consecutive losses and by an average win margin of 16 points to boot. That's a boot that could be on the Sargent Hulka train to the backside of the Boilermakers.

Unlv over SAN JOSE STATE by 3

The Running Rebels are nursing an outside shot at a spot in the Mountain West title game, but besides knocking off the Spartans, UNLV needs slippage from both Boise State and Colorado State. Incredibly, the Rebs are **5-0** on the road in 2024, but the Spartans are coming off outgaining Boise State in last week's loss, just the second stat loss of the season for the Broncos. It's been 12 years since SJSU won eight games, and carrying an **8-1 ATS** mark on Friday nights has us thanking the heavens that it's Friday. The Spartans like to chuck it more than run it (they average less than 90 yards per game on the ground), but we believe the Spartan Air Force, led by WR Nick Nash, the nation's top receiver this year (95 catches, 1282 yards, and 14 TDs) will keep the Rebels secondary running.

COASTAL CAROLINA over Georgia Southern by 8

The last few days were rough on the Owls, but the Georgia Southern Eagles had a terrible time getting airborne. They were beaten up by Troy 28-20 and outgained by 195 yards, the third straight game in which GSU has been outgained by 120 or more yards. It gets a little worse when you realize Georgia Southern has the blues outside of Statesboro, going **0-5 SU and 1-4 ATS** in the final road games of the season. CCU did the opposite, losing to Marshall. Beaten on the scoreboard, the Chanticleers attracted the attention of **THE MIDWEEK ALERT** by winning the stat battle 391-254, but the defeat kept the Chants off the bowl invite list for another week. CCU is 25-6 outright at home this decade and **5-1-1 ATS** when on a revenge mission. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to get behind Shakespeare's favorite rooster. You can even be a little cocky about it.

Smu over VIRGINIA by 3

The Ponies might be the trendy pick, but the real-life trends point towards Charlottesville. UVA is **5-0 ATS** in game 11's, **9-1 ATS** the week before Virginia Tech, and **6-1 ATS** as a home dog of seven or more points. The Mustangs run in the opposite directions, **0-6 ATS and 1-5 SU** in 11th games, 1-6 in road finales, and 2-10 ATS as the conference road favorite of 14 or fewer points. One run they do have going for them is the three-game run RB Brashard Smith is on. Smith has rushed for better than 100 yards in three straight games with five TDs en route to what is likely a 1,000-yard season. If Virginia can't stop Smith, then a 13th game on the Virginia schedule is in grave danger. SMU is just outside CFP orbit at #13 and would nail down a spot in the ACC title game with a win, while the Wahoos can spoil SMU by smacking them with their first ACC loss, all while becoming bowl-eligible. Diamonds are made under pressure, but so is broken glass.

LOUISVILLE over Pittsburgh by 16

The Playbook nailed Pitt losing to Virginia two weeks ago as our Upset Special, and last week's defeat vs. Clemson was the third in a row for the fading Panthers after a 7-0 start. The Panthers have been in the pink during the run of this series, going 8-2 ATS in the last 10 but are also **1-4 ATS** in the first half of back-to-back road games. Toss in **2-9 ATS** as a road underdog, and it's understandable while we're backing the Cardinals. It's Lucky 11 in Louah-vul; the Redbirds are **5-0 SUATS** in 11th games, winning by a 21.5 points average. UL is also **7-1 ATS** as a conference home favorite of 13 or fewer, plus 4-1 ATS with single conference revenge (lost at Pitt last year when favored). Yes, we're sticking with the same Cardinals team that blew a big lead and lost their heads and the game to a bad Stanford team, but we have a stat for that: **11-4 ATS** in their next game when gagging as an outright double-digit favorite. This includes a **5-0 SUATS** mark against teams coming off a defeat. We went to our statue of 1800's gambling legend Madame Moustache for inspiration, and her wise words were… just lay it!

JACKSONVILLE STATE over Sam Houston State by 1

To quote Charles Barkley, "First of all," …this is one of the nation's best women's college bowling matchups. Secondly, both teams are rapidly building strong resumes. JSU opened 0-3 SUATS, and all the Ann Arborites laughed at former coach Rich Rodriguez. The last laugh belongs to RichRod now, as the Gamecocks are **winners of seven straight** thanks to a devastating running game that has Tre Stewart over 1,200 yards, with QB Tyler Huff rushing for 902 with ten rushing TDs and 11 in the air. Where's the weakness? In the RichRod files, you will find a so-so 18-28-2 ATS record as the favorite coming off back-to-

back wins, including **4-12-1** in the last 17 tries. Sam Houston made its FBS debut in 2023 with eight straight losses but has gone 11-3 since. Oh, did we mention JSU is 6-0 and Sam 5-1 in what is a battle for first in C-USA? The Bearkats with D, holding foes to 242 YPG in the last three. After a tough loss last year, they've also packed revenge in their carry-on luggage. Our bud Will Shakespeare used to say, "The play's the thing… and the play is the points."

MIAMI over Wake Forest by 15

The U is still in the CFP hunt, ranked 8th this week, but a loss here would leave them stranded in the Atlantic without a cruise ship. Miami had been on the verge of defeat for weeks before being toppled by Ga. Tech, and with dreams of an unbeaten season gone, we find the Canes on the dreaded Burst Bubble. Miami has had a rough run playing in 11th games, going 1-4 ATS and an equal 1-4 ATS off an SU favorite loss, and not to be mean, but the truth hurts…2-6 ATS as a conference favorite of 10 or greater. Off a bye week? Fuggedaboutit, Miami is 3-8 ATS. The Demon Deacons are in the position of helping their post-season chances while screwing Miami's. Wake needs two Ws to get onto the bowl invite list. In the series, Wake is 2-0 ATS, and as a conference Road Dog of 14 or greater, they're **5-1 ATS**, and the Deacs are not the team you want after a bye, 6-2 ATS versus the rested. Miami is fun to watch when they have the football, but it is downright scary when their defense takes the field. The talent and the superstar QB certainly tilt the field towards the Canes, but we're worried the old Miami habit of playing down to so-called inferior opponents will keep this game closer than the talent gap suggests.

Central Florida over WEST VIRGINIA by 1

The 5-5 'stump jumpers' need at least one win in their last two games to order up bowl shirts and likely save head coach Neal Brown's job in Morgantown. If not with a win here, then they'll need to win at Texas Tech next week. QB Garrett Greene is back in action for the Hillbillies, returning from an upper-body injury before the bye week and leading his team to 338 offensive yards in the first half of the 49-35 loss to Baylor. Keep in mind that the Mountaineers are **6-0 ATS** before playing TTRR, and a 3-1 SUATS mark in Last Home Games figures to keep this close. Meanwhile, the Knights also enter this fray with bowl aspirations as 4-6 UCF looks to rebound from its 3-0 start but more 1-6 recent run. Somehow, Gus Malzahn's lancers are smothering teams 'In the Stats' this season, winning games by an average of +109 net yards per game. Bad numbers for Central Florida include a **2-14 ATS** record when both teams are coming off a loss and a **2-13 ATS** mark off a road game versus an opponent coming off a home game. A pair of wins down the stretch keeps the Knights' nine-year bowl eligibility streak alive, but a closing game in Orlando with Utah won't mean anything unless the Knights win this contest.

Bowling Green over BALL STATE by 6

The 3-win Cardinals are just 2-7 ITS (In The Stats) against FBS opposition this season and going nowhere, but they could play the spoiler role today. An **11-2 ATS** mark as a dog of late and **9-2 ATS** in games, when both teams are coming off a conference clash, should help keep them under the number. Meanwhile, the 6-4 / 5-1 Bee Gees find themselves currently in a three-way tie atop the MAC, and they close the season next week against Miami of Ohio, which also shares the top spot in the MAC. A **10-2 ATS** record off a home game versus a foe off a road game is a good starting point, but they'll need to overcome good trends from the lowly Cardinals and try not to get caught looking ahead. This could get sticky.

North Carolina over BOSTON COLLEGE by 3

Head coach Bill O'Brien replaced starting QB Thomas Castellanos in the second half of the Syracuse game two weeks ago, and former FIU QB Grayson James engineered a comeback win for BC over the Orangemen. O'Brien then made it a permanent benching, and Castellanos decided to leave the team - while James couldn't hang onto the magic last week in a 38-28 loss to SMU, the Eagles are still in quest of a bowl bid at 5-5. However, we can see this fading program (1-4 last five games after a 4-1 start) going nowhere fast. They are **2-9 ATS** as a dog if they were also a dog in the previous game and their foe was favored in the last game. Meanwhile, the Tar Heels are on a three-game heater and at 6-3, have finally clinched bowl eligibility thanks to a defense that has turned things up a notch, allowing just 281 YPG over the course of this win skein. A **6-1 ATS** ledger in LRGs (Last Road Games) sets the table for a win today in Beantown.

KANSAS over Colorado by 1

Coach Prime continues to roll, posting his fourth straight victory, and the Buffs now control their Big 12 fate with a win here and next week against Oklahoma State. The problem is that NONE of Colorado's wins this season have come against a ranked opponent. On the downside, Colorado is 0-3 versus the number after playing Utah and 1-4 ATS as conference favorites or dogs of less than 4 points. Watching Travis Hunter log 130 plays per game is always fun, especially with the exciting performance he put on last week against Utah: he caught 5 passes for 55 yards as a wide receiver, eluded seven would-be tacklers on a rushing touchdown, and intercepted a pass on defense. Meanwhile, it was a huge win over the undefeated Mormons for Lance Leipold's Jayhawks, who started the season 1-5 but have won three of four, including back-to-back Top 25 wins (Iowa State and BYU). This contest is actually at Arrowhead Stadium, the home of the NFL Kansas City Chiefs, and also the home of the Jayhawks this season where, due to renovations at David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium, the Jayhawks are hosting their 2024 Big 12 home games, going 2-1 with wins over Iowa State and Houston. After stumbling out of the game with five consecutive losses against FBS opposition, Leipold's troops are one of the nation's hottest teams, winning three of their last four games and going 4-0 ATS. At 4-6 this season, they need this game like a vampire needs blood.
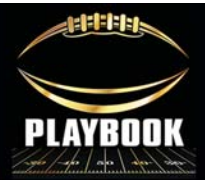
Ole Miss over FLORIDA by 2

The Rebels are one of only three FBS teams to win the stats in every game this season (see the **MIDWEEK ALERT** to learn the other two). However, five SEC teams are lined up ahead of them in the standings, and they will not be vying for the conference championship this season. They have been extremely dominant in most of their wins this season – specifically the two victories against Georgia and No. 21 South Carolina. However, they do have the occasional flat spot, like a bad loss to 4-6 Kentucky. They are also **1-6 ATS** in Game 11s and 3-9 ATS when playing with rest. Meanwhile, the Gators have valiantly battled back to 5-5 after a slow start and need a win here or next week at Florida State to get sized for bowling shirts. They are 5-1 ATS after taking on LSU and **10-2 ATS** as a dog after being a dog in their previous game. A 32-13 SU and 26-18-1 ATS record at home versus .800 or greater conference opponents, including 16-5-1 ATS as either a dog or a favorite of fewer than six points, is something to be considered. Florida welcomed back freshman quarterback DJ Lagway from the injured list, and he threw a 23-yard touchdown, but the story was the Gator defense, which sacked Garrett Nussmeier seven times and held Brian Kelly's Tigers (6-4, 3-3) to 4.2 yards per play. With a turnaround from hot seat to bowl trip, we think Billy Napier's job will be secure.

Old Dominion over MARSHALL by 6

Thanks to a current four-game winning streak, Marshall is riding at the front of the herd in the Sun Belt East at 7-3 / 5-1, with Georgia Southern and James Madison breathing down their necks at 4-2. However, being just 2-6-1 ITS (In The Stats) in FBS games this season makes them a wobbly choice. In addition, a **2-11 ATS** record in games as a favorite after dressing up as a dog in the previous game adds to our hesitation to back the Thundering Herd in this game.

Meanwhile, the 4-6 Monarchs need a pair of season-ending wins to become bowl-qualified for the second straight season. In fact, they have gone bowling in two of the three years since Ricky Rahne took the reins in 2021. Our biggest concern is they have fallen short when laying points under Rahne (2-7 ATS), but with the visiting team bowl-satisfied and the hosts with bowl pangs, it's Monarchs or bust today.

SYRACUSE over UConn by 6

The Huskies own the unique distinction of being the only team in the history of our all-knowing database to have three consecutive ATS "pushes' in their previous three games. The odds of doing the same for a fourth straight time are akin to winning the lotto without buying a lottery ticket. What 7-3 UConn can do, though, is enhance its bowl resume by winning its fourth straight game for the first time since 2010. Should that happen, we'll put Jim L. Mora's name in the "Coach of the Year" hopper. Today, a pair of 7-win upstarts are squaring off in the JMA Wireless Dome (we like calling it the Carrier Dome better). Under first-year head coach Fran Brown, the Orange are 4-1 SUATS against winning foes this season. With the Cuse looking ahead to hosting Miami in its final curtain call next week, the visiting sled dogs get the call this afternoon.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC over Charlotte by 3

Biff Poggi will undoubtedly be the answer to many trivia questions someday when it comes to the Charlotte program. He and two other AAC head coaches were fired this week after the Bobcats failed to gain traction in his less-than-two seasons with Charlotte, where the 49ers went 6-12 under his lead. There are now five open AAC jobs, as Rice, Temple, East Carolina, and FAU have all fired their coaches. Poggi was an unconventional hire, as he came to Charlotte from Michigan, where he was an associate head coach. He arrived at Charlotte with limited experience at the college level, as he had been a successful head coach at St. Frances Academy of Baltimore. If the Niners fail to win here or next week against UAB, they will conclude a third straight three-win season. The **MIDWEEK ALERT** jumps to the rescue, noting that Charlotte is **"leaking oil"** at 0-3 ITS (In The Stats) in its last three contests. We can't lay points with a team in this condition, and we

won't. Both teams enter this game rudderless, with Florida Atlantic canning Tom Herman this week as well. Expect the Owls to win one for the Gipper.

SOUTH FLORIDA over Tulsa by 14

East Carolina held off Tulsa with a goal-line stand on the game's final play for a 38-31 win in the Thursday night game. It was the fifth loss in the last six games for the Golden Hurricane, who, at 3-7, have settled into a cold front, bringing an 0-6 ITS (In The Stats) skein into this contest while allowing 536 or more yards in each of the last three games. The only threat that they are at this stage of the season is that of a false alarm. Across the field, the 5-5 Bulls will need this win or next week against Rice to go bowling. In other words, it's safe to start making plans for holiday travel. However, they are just **2-10 ATS** when both teams arrive off point spread wins. Head coach Alex Golesh has been without QB Byrum Brown since he suffered a foot injury in a loss to Tulane on September 28th, and his replacement, Bryce Archie, has done an adequate job. But until the player who led South Florida to a 45-0 victory in the 2023 Boca Raton Bowl over Syracuse last year returns, we have no interest in backing the Bulls.

James Madison over APPALACHIAN STATE by 3

Jimmy was Mad when the Dukes puked in a 26-23 home loss to the Apps as -10-point chalk in their Last Home Game last year, snapping a perfect 10-0 start to the season. They enter today's game with a **9-2 ATS** mark in games off a win when facing foes coming off a loss. Since joining the FBS tour, they have also been 2-0 SUATS when seeking revenge, with an average score margin of 30-11. it certainly feels like they are sitting on a powder keg, but laying a touchdown to a quality program is a whole 'nother story. Meanwhile, the Mountaineers are having one of their worst seasons in years after notching 58 victories over the past six years. This year, they cannot stop the run, giving up over 200 YPG on the ground, and they are ranked 119th in the nation in Rush Defense. Still, the Boys from Boone are 9-1 outright in LHGs as an FBS team and 3-0 ATS over the last three games as a home dog. The 4-6 Apps need this win and next week at Georgia Southern to go bowling for the ninth time in the last ten years... take the points.

Continuing on the path to the College Football Playoff, here is an updated report card of each team heading into upcoming games this week and where they stand with regard to being or becoming 'bowl eligible' –

Clinched Bowl Eligibility Last Game:
Baylor, Bowling Green, Buffalo, East Carolina, Georgia Tech, Miami Ohio, North Carolina, Northern Illinois, Rutgers, TCU, Texas State, and Washington.

Looking to Clinch Bowl Eligibilty Next Game:
Arkansas, California, Cincinnati, Coastal Carolina, Eastern Michigan, Florida, Fresno State, Michigan, NC State, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Texas, Oklahoma, South Alabama, UL-Monroe, USC, USF, UTSA, Virginia, Virginia Tech, Wisconsin, Western Michigan, West Virginia.

Keep a close eye on this group of teams this weekend.

One thing is for certain, the bowl committees will be watching every breath they take!

Wisconsin over NEBRASKA by 3

The Children of the Corn have seen the Badgers destroy their crops for the past decade, with Wisky going **10-0 SU** in this series. The Huskers are also **0-9 SU** and 2-6 ATS at home in the last nine games when trying to clinch bowl eligibility. An 0-4 ITS (In The Stats) mark in their last four games means Nebbish is **"leaking oil"**, never a reason to open the wallet. Still, this an interesting matchup of a pair of 5-5 teams, with each looking to cement a bowl berth. Wisconsin offensive coordinator Phil Longo was fired on Sunday after the loss to Oregon – there were rumors of a feud between Longo and head coach Luke Fickell this season, so the fact that Longo was fired didn't come as a surprise. His Dairy Raid attack never had much success in Madison, and QB Braedyn Locke has not been able to do much against good teams since former Miami QB Tyler Van Dyke went down early in the season. But a fresh start on offense could be a good sign. Also, be aware that the Badgers are 11-1 ATS in Game Elevens, and with the pressure reaching all-time high proportions on the Cornhuskers, the points are the play here.

MINNESOTA over Penn State by 1

The BIG Ten has 4 teams in the Top 5, with the Nittany Lions at #4, and unless they stumble today against P.J. Fleck's Gophers, they should remain right there with two of them (Ohio State and Indiana) meeting in Columbus. But we see stumbling as a real possibility today. A **14-2 ATS** record as road favorites, including 9-0 as road favorites of more than a TD, present good road chalk numbers for the Lions. However, the biggest hurdle they must overcome today is in the **SMART BOX** (see page 3). In addition, Minny has covered three of the last four meetings in this series and is **6-1 ATS** versus opponents with rest. Let's also throw in a **5-1 ATS** record at home with single-conference revenge. Like most other 6-win teams who finally clinched a bowl berth, the Gophers immediately went into a hole the following game when they were tripped up at Rutgers as 6.5-point road chalk. And like The Who said, "They Won't Get Fooled Again", we make the upset call!

Iowa over MARYLAND by 10

The Hawkeyes are 18-5-1 ATS coming off an away favorite loss, including **9-0 ATS** if they are on the road again. We're not about to fade that with a turtle with a penchant for not showing up in games this season. Note: The opening line of this game was Iowa -2.5, but it quickly went to Iowa -6.5. That's because former starting QB Cade McNamara is

expected back from a two-game absence from a concussion for the Hawkeyes. Following an injury-laden campaign in 2023, McNamara came into 2024 with a clean bill of health after knee surgery, and he underperformed – the time off figures to serve him and the Hawkeyes well. Meanwhile, the Terrapins are an absolutely pathetic 1-17 SU in their last eighteen Game Eleven contests. That might be all you need to know. At 4-6, they need a pair of wins to become bowl-eligible, but we just don't see that happening here today.

OHIO STATE over Indiana by 6

The Buckeyes are **29-0 SU** in the last twenty-nine games of this series – that is simply unbelievable!! They are also 10-1 ATS at home versus conference opponents with rest but only 2-5 ATS as Big Ten favorites of 15 or fewer points. Meanwhile, Curt Cignetti got a $64 million contract on his week off. Aside from history, the knock is that IU has played a soft slate, with nary a win against a Top 25 team this season. Still, it's rare to find a 10-0 underdog catching this many points. In fact, there have been 13 underdogs with a 10-0 record in Game Eleven of the season. They are 8-5 ATS overall, including 1-0 ATS when taking more than 12 points (Miami, Fla lost 18-16 at Arkansas in 1988 as a 16-point dog). Cignetti is also **10-1 ATS** away in conference games, plus **21-2 SU and 16-5 ATS** when undefeated with the better record. Hold your nose and grab the points.

Illinois over RUTGERS by 1

Both teams are bowl-eligible, which means this game should be played with bowl intensity... not. Not when both teams have allowed more yards than they've gained this season. However, while many people do not like Greg Schiano, it must be acknowledged that he has re-invigorated the culture in Piscataway during this second tour of duty. A Maryland team that had beaten the Scarlet Knights by double-digits for three straight seasons was summarily dispatched last Saturday in College Park, 31-17. Schiano has his players trusting each other, and despite being very banged up, they have continued to play hard. Will that translate into another victory today and guarantee a winning season? We're not sure, not with a **2-9 ATS record** off a double-digit ATS win. On the flip side, the 7-3 Fightin' Illini own a **1-9 ATS** mark in Game Eleven conference clashes. When push comes to shove, if this was a bowl game and we were offered free tickets, we'd stay at home and watch it on the boob tube.

MICHIGAN over Northwestern by 6

The 5-5 Wolverines are in danger of suffering the first losing season by a defending National Champion since Michigan State in 1966. They also need one win to earn a bowl pass, and if history has a say, this should be it, given UM's 33-4 SU record against Northwestern since 1966. The problem is Michigan's **2-10 ATS** record at home in Game Eleven since 1999. Meanwhile, this series has been dominated by the home team, with the visitors going 0-4 ATS in the last four matchups. The Cats' anemic No. 130th-ranked offense (285 YPG) has forced the defense to work overtime, resulting in a wobbly 1-6 ITS (In The Stats) overall mark in their last seven games. Still, at 4-6, they will come with everything they have to stay alive in landing a bowl invite.

GEORGIA over UMass by 43

At first glance, the casual football fan would look at this matchup and say, "The Best against the Worst." That wouldn't be too far off-base from the truth, but there is no doubt that the Dawgs have slipped a notch. In fact, when Georgia trailed 10-0 against Tennessee last week before kicking it in gear (when another loss would likely have left them out of this year's Playoff), there had to be some consternation between the hedges. In the end, it was QB Carson Beck's best game of the season: 347 yards through the air with 2 TDs - but more importantly - no interceptions. We don't even think about laying 6 touchdowns in a game, but if you do, we'll discourage that by saying that the Bulldogs are **1-5 ATS** as favorites of more than 36 points and 3-6 versus the number in their last nine games versus non-conference foes. Still, you'd have to figure they lay it on here with the CFP invites going out soon. As for the Minutemen, there's not much to say; They are 0-3 ATS versus the SEC and 3-9 ATS as dogs of more than 28 points. 'Nuff said…

Western Kentucky over LIBERTY by 3

The 7-3 / 5-1 Toppers are just one game in back of CUSA leader Jacksonville State, whom they will meet next week for conference honors, provided they get past the Flames today. A **12-3 SU and a 14-1 ATS record** in Game Eleven, including **7-0 ATS** on the road, gives us a slight lean for an upset pick. Meanwhile, Liberty won and

covered the last two meetings of this series (both on the road) and was 20-3 SU in their previous twenty-three games. They don't lose at home with much regularity (31-5 outright in the last 36 games at Williams Stadium), so this is a tough call, but the reward for the visitors outweighs that of the hosts.

Tennessee over UTEP by 39

As mentioned, the Volunteers had Georgia on the ropes early but couldn't sustain it, and in the final analysis, it was another loss to the Dawgs (8th straight). Tennessee is **7-0 ATS** in their last seven non-conference home tilts and **5-1 ATS** as favorites of more than 28 points. On the flip side, UTEP is **7-1 ATS** with rest but 1-8 ATS in their last nine games versus the SEC and 1-6 versus the number as dogs of 28 points or more. However, as mentioned previously, laying 40 points is not our cup of tea. We'll take a coffee break instead and pass.

Iowa State over UTAH by 3

Utes have been bit hard by lousy karma this season. After being slotted as the top team to win the Big 12 in the preseason media poll, the black cloud continually hovering over seventh-year starting QB Cam Rising continues to linger over the program. After finally ruling Rising out for the season after the Arizona State contest, freshman QB Isaac 'Sara Lee' Wilson, brother of NFL QB Zach Wilson, settled in as the Utes' starting signal-caller. Then, after throwing eight touchdown passes and eight interceptions with a QBR that ranked 113th in the FBS for the season, Wilson gave way to third-string QB Brandon Rose, who made his first start in a brutal 22-21 loss to BYU. Rose was benched in favor of Wilson last week at Colorado, and Sara had cut the score to 35-24 midway through the fourth quarter when Wilson did it again, tossing another pick which allowed the Buffaloes the opportunity to close out the game late with two added TDs. Utah rode a five-game losing streak into Colorado last Saturday, with only one loss by more than one possession. Now, they will need wins this week against the Cyclones and next week at UCF to go bowling for the 17th time in twenty years under head coach Kyle Whittingham. Meanwhile, Iowa State is **7-1 SUATS** in their last eight road games. Like the Utes, the Cyclones have played their way out of contention in the Big 12 and, most likely, the CFP as well. They can likely take advantage of a battered group of Utes, but it won't be easy, not with ISU 3-7 SUATS in their final road games over the last ten years.

San Diego State over UTAH STATE by 3

First-year San Diego State head coach Sean Lewis must be a glass-half-full kind of guy. Why else would he take over a team coming off a coach-firing 4-8 season in 2023 that ranked No. 102 in returning player production? Probably the same reason interim head coach Nate Dreiling took over at Utah State on the heels of Blake Anderson's pre-season dismissal – nobody else wanted it at the time. Fast forward to today's battle between two disappointing 3-7 teams that will be home 'waxing' for the holidays, with the Aztecs their surfboards and the Aggies their skis. Still, they're contractually obligated to finish the season, a task that should seem more appealing to the visitors if they've been informed of Utah State's defenseless efforts in 2024, currently ranked No. 131 in scoring defense (39 PPG) and overall defense (473 YPG). You won't catch us laying points with a matador defense like that, not when the Aggies are a pitiful **1-4 SUATS** of late in games played on this field. The Aztecs ain't no bargain, though, landing in Logan and riding a four-game losing streak, but at least Lewis is 6-3 ATS as a dog versus foes who allow 39 or more PPG, including **5-0 ATS** the last five games. Diego's surprising 9-2 ATS success when coming off a road loss seals the deal. As we said, the glass is half full.

Byu over ARIZONA STATE by 6

How bout them Sun Devils? Under third-year head coach Ken Dillingham, Arizona State (8-2, 5-2 Big 12) went to No. 16 Kansas State (7-3, 4-3), jumped out to a 24-0 lead and held on to win 24-14, moving into third place in the 16-team conference. Last year they were still digging out from under the Herm Edwards experiment and NCAA recruiting sanctions, but now they suit up for their last home game of the season riding a three-game winning streak. We all know what happened to the Cougars last week, losing their first game of 2024 in stunning fashion to Kansas at Provo, 17-13. Mistakes and missed opportunities were the culprits: BYU totaled 354 yards but went 2-for-4 in the red zone and came away with no touchdowns on all four drives inside the 20. Thus, the elephant in the room is, "How do 'bubble burst' teams fare after having a 7-0 or greater season go down the drain with a loss in their previous game? The answer is

quite simple: they burn money when favored in a follow-up game but make money as a dog when discarded by the oddsmaker the next game (see this week's **AWESOME ANGLE** on page 2 for more details). We'll gladly take the points with a BYU squad that has cashed three straight tickets in this series and catches the Sun Devils with blood rival Arizona waiting on deck. ASU can knock the Mormons out of second place in the Big 12 race with a win, but we think that's just too large of a leap for the Pitch Forks. Cougars start a new win streak.

MIDDLE TENN STATE over New Mexico State by 8

As Ned Beatty said in Deliverance, when the canoeing group stopped at a ramshackle collection of old homes and junked cars, "I think this is where everything ends up." What better way to categorize Conference USA in 2024, where only four of the league's ten teams own a winning record. These aren't two of them. New Mexico State is fighting to stay out of the conference cellar occupied by Kennesaw State, while MTSU is just one game ahead of the Aggies in the standings. Both squads are equally inept, with the Blue Raiders outscored by an average score of 34-17 while the Las Cruces crew weighs in as 37-19 losers. However, Little Blue turns big in this week's role, going 11-3-1 ATS as a home favorite of four or more points. Yes, it's difficult laying points with teams of this caliber, but it's not hard fading foes with credentials like the Aggies. You know what to do.

CALIFORNIA over Stanford by 17

Both teams traded the Pac-12 for the ACC this season, but today's meeting still marks the 127th installment of the Big Game. This bitter rivalry finds the Cardinal coming off a 38-35 over Louisville in a miraculous fashion. Louisville, facing a fourth-and-10 with 10 seconds left and the score tied, opted to try a Hail Mary. Nope. Stanford took over possession at its own 44 with four seconds left, at which point Louisville got flagged 15 yards for an unsportsmanlike penalty, then jumped offside, setting up a game-winning 52-yard field goal with one second remaining. Whew! Meanwhile, Cal was tripped up on this field as a double-digit favorite by Syracuse last week, falling into a 27-7 first half hole that proved too much to overcome. The five-win Golden Bears are looking to cement a bowl berth with a win today, and they had better git 'er done here, as they're booked for a season-ending road game at SMU next. This really is a good spot for Cal, with the Bears standing **10-2 ATS** when coming off a double-digit ATS loss while Stanford is a puny **2-9 ATS** when coming off a win.

NEVADA over Air Force by 1

Air Force closed out its regular season home schedule with a dramatic flourish, beating Fresno State 36-28 before totally dominating Oregon State last Saturday, 28-0. Alas, it's too late for the Flyboys, who will see a three-year bowl skein snapped this season. Hard to believe the Falcons were the top-ranked team in the nation in overall defense last year after watching them slip 31 positions in 2024. Over the previous three seasons, the AFA won 29 games behind teams that averaged 395 yards on offense while allowing 270 yards on defense; this year, those numbers are 305 and 333. At 3-8 / 0-5 overall this season, the Wolf Pack bring up the rear in the Mountain West Conference, currently a half-game behind the 3-7 / 1-4 Falcons. In other words, the loser of this game will closely resemble the result of a cremation procedure… toast. Hey, once they close the doors and turn up the heat, there's no going back! The best we can suggest is a small moneyline play on the home team Wolf Pack.

Florida Int'l over KENNESAW STATE by 4

The biggest mystery of the 2024 season will likely be "How did FBS newbie Kennesaw State win its only game of the season as a 27-point underdog?" Other than totally embarrassing Liberty – a win that ended the Flames' 17-game regular season winning streak – the Owls are **0-9 outright and ITS** (In The Stats), losing the stats by an average margin of -158 yards. While we would normally be all over FIU in this matchup, the three-win Panthers are a touchdown-plus road favorite, despite laying 7-points at UTEP five weeks ago and losing the entire game, 30-21. That's not our idea of going international, especially when Pitbull's favorite team is just **2-10 ATS** when both teams are coming off losses as a dog. With neither side calling our name, we'll paraphrase one of our former presidents, "Talk about a s - - thole of a game." You're on your own here.

LOUISIANA over Troy by 7

The clunkers keep on coming. After winning 23 games and capturing consecutive championships the past two seasons, the 3-win Trojans

have gone from the ceiling of success in the Sun Belt to the floor of mediocrity this year. They are, however, coming off consecutive wins as underdogs, and they bring a **9-2 ATS** log into this game when coming off an outright win as an underdog. Meanwhile, the 8-2 / 5-1 Ragin' Cajuns rest one game atop three foes in the Sun Belt West but enter off a 24-22 home favorite loss against South Alabama last week. Considering that the defeat by the Jags snapped a six-game winning streak for Louisiana, we look for a return to the norm here for the Cajuns today. That's easy enough to do looking at their **13-2 ATS** record when coming off a home loss, but a troubling 6-12 ATS in home games of late gives us pause. So does Troy's **11-2 ATS** ledger when checking in off a double-digit ATS win. Sure, the Trojans may not be going anywhere special this year but they can prove to be a real thorn in the side of the Cajuns today. Translation: Louisiana wins on the scoreboard, but Troy leaves town with the cash.

TCU over Arizona by 8

Horned Frogs were actually the preseason No. 10 choice in the Big 12 conference, but have since outplayed that perception with a 6-4 record, putting a bowl-eligible pass in their back pocket. They earned that last week when they leaped all over Oklahoma State in a 22-point win on this field. We'll be surprised if many Arizona fans make the trek from Tucson to Fort Worth today after the Wildcats have been a major disappointment in their Big 12 debut. Zona was projected as the No. 5 team in the loop in the preseason poll by the Big 12 media, but they entered this game on a soul-crushing **1-5 SUATS** losing slide. So, in a season gone sideways, the Wildcats will need a win here and next week against rival Arizona State to reserve their bowling shoes. Don't count on it, though, as we see the Bowl Nazi telling UA head coach Brent Brennan, "No bowl for you!" at the conclusion of this afternoon's contest. Covering a double-digit spread against a desperate team could be a tall order for TCU, and while the Frogs' excellent **8-2 ATS** mark in LHGs when coming off a home game looks appealing, we must question their motivation against a hungry pack of Wildcats. Proceed with caution.

Missouri over MISSISSIPPI STATE by 11

Four lead changes in the final six minutes of last week's 34-30 loss at South Carolina left the Tigers gassed but hopeful nonetheless with the return to the lineup of star QB Brady Cook. Cook, known as the Evel Knievel of college quarterbacks, has had a rocky journey through his senior year. There was the ankle injury suffered against Auburn in Week 8; then a wrist injury suffered against Alabama the very next week. In fact, Cook has only been on the field for 47% of Missouri's offensive plays over the past month. His season stats reflect the massive time he's missed, as he's thrown for 1,812 yards with just 8 touchdown passes and 2 interceptions. "It's been a 3-4-week stretch here where I haven't played a ton of ball," he said. "I want to finish." So, that is what he intends to do. Missouri is sitting at 7-3 with 2 games left in the regular season and couldn't have asked for a better matchup to get the bad taste out of their mouths following the loss to the Gamecocks. The 2-8 / 0-6 Bulldogs bring up the rear in the 16-team SEC, primarily because they've allowed more points than any team in the league. It's what happens when you own the nation's No. 130-ranked overall defense (461 YPG). With Hail State more focused on next week's Egg Bowl against Ole Miss, look for Tiger QB Brady to cook up a big win and cover for his team in Starkville this afternoon.

South Alabama over SOUTHERN MISS by 24

It's hard to illustrate just how disastrous this season has been for Southern Miss, so we'll check Athlon Sports' Top 134 college team rankings. The Eagles aren't hard to find; scroll down to the bottom of the list, and you'll see USM at No. 133, lower than teams like UMass, UTEP, and Kennesaw State. No wonder then that the hosts can't wait for this season to end, especially after going **0-9 outright and ITS** (In The Stats) against fellow FB foes this season, losing the stats in those games by an average of -175 net yards per contest. That's music to the ears of the 5-5 Jaguars, who remain alive for a bowl berth with one more win this season. It likely happens here against the tarnished Eagles, who are **2-18 SU** in their last twenty games against FBS opposition. USA first-year head coach Major Applewhite will be looking to lead the Jags to their third straight bowl game, and while this number looks "redwoods" tall, it's there for a reason, Lay it or leave it.

KANSAS STATE over Cincinnati by 16

A lot has happened to the Wildcats' world in the past two weeks. It was then they sat atop the Big 12 standings, a one-loss team and the

choice of many to be the kingpins of the conference. Two weeks and a pair of outright upset losses as 7.5 and 12.5-point favorites later, they are tied with five other teams in the league at 4-3, trailing one-loss BYU and Colorado for the conference lead. We've rarely seen a Kansas State team under Chris Klieman play worse than they did in last week's 24-14 failure against Arizona State, so we expect a much more spirited, cohesive effort from the Wildcats in Manhattan tonight. While KSU earned its bowl pass weeks ago, the 5-5 Bearcats are sitting on the cusp of a bowl bid and need a win here or next week when they host TCU to break the bubble. Cincinnati wouldn't be in this fix if it weren't for a 0-3 SUATS losing skein, and it's becoming a pattern under second-year head coach Scott Satterfield, who is **1-7 SU and 2-6 ATS** in the final five games of the season with UC. A brief trip through the ATS archives points out Cincy's less-than-mediocre **2-8-1 ATS** mark in games coming off a SUATS loss, while Klieman's Cats bring a **15-2 ATS** record into this matchup when coming off a double-digit loss – as well as a **13-2 ATS** mark when coming off a SUATS loss. Like the Fabulous Thunderbirds sang, "Wrap it up. I'll take it."

4★ BEST BET

TEXAS over __Kentucky__ by 8

The Longhorns and Wildcats have met only once in their history, with Texas claiming a 7-6 win in Austin in 1951. This year's edition of the Horns stands 5-1 in SEC play and is tied for first in the league with Texas A&M, who they will play next week. Ironically, neither the Longhorns nor the Aggies have defeated an opponent currently ranked this season (see this week's **INCREDIBLE STAT** on page 3 for more teams residing in this fraternity this week). However, UT does own the nation's top-ranked defense, notching six sacks and allowing just 231 total yards in a 20-10 win at Arkansas last Saturday. With 16 returning starters and a player production ranking of No. 14, Kentucky looked like a cinch to improve on two consecutive 7-6 season finishes. However, their hopes were dashed after a 3-2 start when the Wildcats dropped four straight conference games, outscored by a total of 120-61 before last week's 48-6 win over Murray State jolted them back to life. A bunch of good numbers suggests UK might get the money even if they don't win on the scoreboard. The Cats are **6-0 ATS** in LRG (Last Road Games), **6-1 ATS** as conference dogs of 14 or more points, and 6-2 ATS away versus an .850 or better league foe. Meanwhile, hidden within the layers of the Longhorns' 9-1 record is the troubling fact that head coach Steve Sarkisian is just 10-16-1 ATS when coming off back-to-back wins and facing foes who allow fewer than 24 points per game, including 5-12-1 ATS from Game Six out. The line is hovering around three TDs at the moment, but if you're still having second thoughts about backing the 4-6 Wildcats with their backs to the bowl wall, then listen to **THE CLINCHER: Kentucky is 18-5 outright and 18-4 ATS when coming off a non-conference home game, including 9-1 SU and 10-0 ATS away.**

Texas Tech over OKLAHOMA STATE by 8

Is it time for Oklahoma State head coach Mike Gundy to seek counseling? Gundy issued an apology on social media recently for comments he made speaking to reporters, in which he suggested that many of the fans expressing negativity about the Cowboys' wasted season "are the same ones that can't pay their own bills." Huh? On second thought, skip the shrink and grow the mullet back! It's no wonder everybody in Stillwater is grouchy these days, as 3-7 Okie State has been the Big 12's biggest disappointment this year. Not only have the Pokes bottomed out with a current seven-game losing streak, but they've also clinched their first losing season since 2005. To see how far they've fallen, OSU would have been a 6-point favorite in this game at the beginning of the campaign, but they show up today taking 3 or more points at home from Texas Tech. The Red Raiders clinched a bowl pass two games ago and promptly went into the toilet bowl with a 41-27 loss to Colorado the next week. They arrive here with a week of rest to right themselves at **10-2 ATS** games when coming off a double-digit loss and **10-2 ATS** in games when coming off a loss as a dog. While the Cowboys do own a nifty 9-2 ATS ledger as a home dog, all we need to do is look at their 500-yard defense that helped put them behind a stats log of -116 net yards per game. Look for Tech to get back on track today against a dog with zero bite.

NORTH TEXAS over East Carolina by 4

The 6-4 Pirates are on a three-game win streak, which set them up for the bowl season while already tripling last year's production in the process. The 5-5 Mean Green are zoning in on East Carolina as they look to become bowl-eligible with one more win. That doesn't mean today's game is a must-win for UNT; should they trip up here behind their 447-yard defense, they always have Temple waiting on deck. Our concern with the Green is an offense that averages 36 points and 499 yards per game, coming up drastically short in their last two games when they scored 3 and 6 points, respectively. Time for second-year head coach Eric Morris to come up with some fix-a-flat to pump some life back into the offense. Considering ECU is just 3-14 ATS in Last Road Games, including **0-9 ATS** when coming off a win, the Denton gang should tap into some Last Home Game fan energy to prevail on the scoreboard. As far as covering the spread, we're content to sit on the sidelines and just watch this back-and-forth affair.

TEXAS STATE over Georgia State by 16

The 58 points scored by the Bobcats in last week's destruction of Southern Miss was the most since the Eagles dropped 63 on Prairie View back in 2015. But after rolling up a season-high 703 yards in that game, Texas State figures to 'bounce' here. Numerologists are concerned about their win-two, lose-two approach to the season so far, especially since the Bobcats just put two straight wins in the bank. There's also the possibility that TSU may find itself in post-bowl purgatory (it's where teams who clinched bowl eligibility in their last game go to celebrate). GSU's one claim to fame this season is they did beat a resurgent Vanderbilt team. Since then, they've dropped seven straight games and are likely looking ahead to next week's season-ending home game versus Coastal Carolina. At **2-12 ATS** when coming off a SUATS loss, the Panthers figure to put up little resistance here. At last glance, the line was at TSU -20, so be careful if you play it.

Rice over UAB by 3

The Trent Dilfer watch continues in Birmingham. The one-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback has been unable to duplicate the success that former head coach Bill Clark enjoyed at UAB, currently 6-16 overall and bound for nowhere. In fact, John Lennon's lyrics to an early Beatles song seem right on target for Dilfer: "He's a real nowhere man, sitting in his nowhere land, making all his nowhere plans for nobody." Alert the burn unit! While the 2-8 Blazers still need two wins to match last year's disappointing 4-win effort, we're never thrilled laying points with a batch of Owls who are 5-14 ATS as a favorite of late. The fact is neither team is headed anywhere other than to the exit door at season's end. The only stat of any significance in this matchup is that the Blazers are 3-0 SUATS in LHGs. Based on the lack of any technical support, we'll make like Snoop Dogg and drop this like it's hot.

ARKANSAS over Louisiana Tech by 28

The 4-6 Techsters must win here and next week when they host the Kennesaw cupcakes to achieve bowl eligibility. The problem is that Terry Bradshaw's alma mater hasn't won two games in a row in four years. The 5-win Hogs also need another 'W' to snag a bowl bid, and they'd certainly rather do it here as 22-point chalk against a losing team than have to slug it out with Missouri next weekend. Arkansas has been bested by two of the SEC's best recently, losing consecutive home games to Ole Miss and Texas, but they should be ready to send the Razorback seniors out on a winning note this afternoon. Sam Pittman's Hogs are a solid **9-2 ATS** when coming off a home loss and 13-5 ATS in LHGs, including **6-0 ATS** as a favorite. With the Ruston Bulldogs just **2-10 ATS** off an ATS win against foes also off an ATS win, there's really only one way to look here.

AUBURN over Texas A&M by 4

Consider this: In order to qualify for a bowl game this season, 4-6 Auburn must register back-to-back upsets of No. 15 Texas A&M and No. 7 Alabama. Do you think Mattress Mack would risk $1 million on that proposition? The 8-2 / 6-1 Aggies are tied with Texas for the top spot in the salty Big 12… yet they're not even favored by a field goal against a team that's spent most of the season dancing around the SEC cellar like an object caught in the gravitational pull of a black hole. The line of A&M -2.5 hasn't budged since coming out on Sunday, so the rush of A&M money we expected to see hasn't materialized (we suggest buying the line up to Auburn +3 if you play the game). What has materialized from the Well-Oiled Machine is the fact that the Tigers are 11-3 ATS in their previous 14 Last Home Games, including **8-1 ATS** when seeking revenge. Seven straight wins by the Aggies
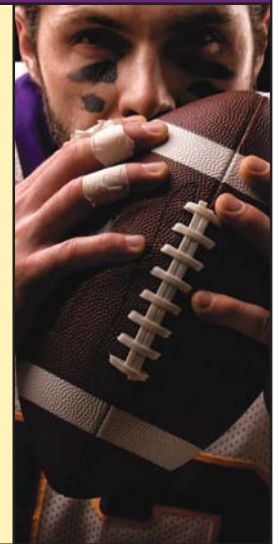
had many believing they could reach the Final Four in this year's playoff, a notion that was quickly iced when A&M got spanked at South Carolina, 44-20. Don't let the low number scare you off Auburn, as the home team has won three in a row in this series. As for the ATS result, the Tigers are 4-1 ATS at home when playing with single conference revenge, while A&M's **1-5 ATS** record of late as SEC road chalk makes us pay attention. Thus, we'll fade the popular Aggies on the Plains tonight.

5★ BEST BET

HOUSTON over Baylor by 6

After hitting the '6-win-and-we're-going-bowling' plateau last week, the Bears extended Dave 'Always on the Hot Seat' Aranda's contract. We're not sure why, other than it could have been a similar deal to the one Florida's Bill Napier inked with the Gators, where it became cheaper to keep him and use the money on recruiting players than buying his contract out. Anyone who saw Baylor run roughshod over West Virginia last week with 512 yards and 49 points couldn't wait to get down on the Bears in today's game. They probably failed to notice that the Mountaineers rolled up 499 yards of their own while BU got whistled for 90 yards worth of penalties. After a puzzling 27-3 loss to Arizona, the 4-4 Cougs will need to pull off a pair of wins in their final two games to take first-year head coach Willie Fritz to a bowl game – a win here and next week at BYU. This will be Houston's last game at TDECU Stadium, and that's a plus for the Cats, who are 9-3 SU and 8-4 ATS in home finales, including **7-0 SU and 6-1 ATS** when they surrender fewer than 24 points per game. Where do we sign? The real trouble for the Bears is a defense that has allowed 36 points per game in its last seven games. Now, coming off four consecutive revenge wins in a row, we sign off with **THE CLINCHER: See Marc's Fun, Fun, Fun Betcha Didn't Know article on page 2.**

ARKANSAS STATE over UL Monroe by 11

The Red Wolves clinched their second straight bowl bid in last week's upset win at Georgia State. At the same time, the Warhawks continued to spin their wheels in search of magic win No. 6. Our question is how will that happen, considering they're currently riding a four-game losing streak. Then there's this astonishing stat to consider when handicapping a meeting between these two: Arkansas State is **14-0 ATS** against ULM dating back to 2010. The Red Wolves are locked in a three-way tie with Texas State and South Alabama for second in the Sun Belt West race just one game back of Louisiana, so head coach Butch Jones should have little difficulty getting his troops up for this one. We'll be the first to admit that the Warhawks are sporting some new helmets with a logo that seems to be a cross between a bird of prey and a great white shark, but they've allowed an average of 40 points per game in their last four contests. Sometimes it's best not to overthink these things… run with the Red Wolves.

UCLA over Usc by 3

It's hard to believe, but this year's battle of L.A. will take place as a Big Ten clash. That's amusing, considering neither of these former Pac-12 stalwarts has made a dent in their new league, currently stuck in the middle with identical 3-5 records. At least the 4-6 Bruins have battled back from a 1-5 start to the season, while USC's mid-season three-game meltdown leaves the Trojans with only five wins. They'll be hell-bent on getting their bowl-qualifying sixth win here because next week they face a much bigger challenge against big, bad Notre Dame. Unfortunately, the Trojans give it up on three moneymaking factors in this contest: **2-9 ATS** away, **2-9 ATS** as a road favorite, and **2-9 ATS** when coming off a win as a favorite. Factor Southern Cal's porous near 400-yard defense into this battle, and suddenly UCLA's shot at reaching a bowl with a win here and next week versus Fresno State doesn't seem so outlandish. Be sure to check the line, as the Bruins are a long-term, money-making 40-28-1 ATS as a home dog, including 22-9-1 ATS when taking more than four points. Another loss for USC tonight and not even a get-out-of-jail-free card will save head coach Lincoln Riley from the wrath of Trojans fans.

LSU over Vanderbilt by 6

It seems as if a glance at the current CFP rankings might have an omission. Where is LSU, you say? A perennial power in the SEC and picked to finish 5th in the league this season, the Tigers are riding a 0-3 SUATS losing skein entering this contest and wondering the same thing. It might be time to admit that the hiring of Brian Kelly from Notre Dame has been a colossal failure as they have now lost four games in a season for the fourth time in five years, including two of three with Kelly. The good news is they are **10-1 ATS** in the first of consecutive home games, where they will host the team picked to finish 16th (last) in the loop. Ironically, both teams own identical 5-4 / 3-3 records entering this fray, with Vandy actually allowing fewer points per game than LSU. The much-improved Commodores have pulled the rug on four opponents this season and have visions of going bowling for the first time since 2018. They were **0-60** against ranked opponents until they apple-carted Alabama last month, and they don't figure to back down today, either.

Boise State over WYOMING by 16

Currently sitting on top of the Mountain, Boise State enters today's game as the No. 12 team in the current CFP rankings, which means if the season ended last week, they would be in the new 12-team playoff. And they will finish at least there, should they not stumble today against Wyoming or next week when they host Oregon State from the powerful Pac-2 (pun intended). The Broncos dug a 14-0 hole against San Jose State last week before Heisman hopeful RB Ashton Jeanty's jets kicked in when they outscored the Spartans 42-7 the rest of the way. Jeanty owns 1,893 yards in 10 games, a school record. Meanwhile, the Wild Horse brings a **6-1-1 ATS** mark into this game against .333 or fewer foes. However, they must overcome the Cowboys' **6-0 ATS** record as a dog of fifteen or more points and their **6-1 ATS** ledger against .800 or greater opponents. With the 'Boys riding a 4-1 SU and **5-0 ATS** mark in Game Elevens, we'll be in the take today.

Washington State over OREGON STATE by 3

The 25th-ranked Cougars are holding their own, while the 4-6 Beavers are having trouble holding water this season. That sets the table in this one-and-only matchup of Pac-2 teams, with the winner hoisting the trophy and the loser retreating to last place in this makeshift conference. Wazzu brings a **2-9 ATS** log in the second of consecutive roadies, while OSU will look to rely on its 6-4 SU and 7-3 ATS log as a home dog of 14 or fewer points, including 5-2 SU and 6-1 ATS against winning foes. Go Beavers!

Notre Dame over Army by 10

It's safe to say that Notre Dame's loss to Northern Illinois is the ugliest loss of any CFP contender, but the Irish are positioned for an ideal playoff seed. The key question is whether the Dame should host a first-round game. If it sounds like persuasive hype generated by the P.R. machine coming from the Golden Dome, it likely is. The Irish currently rank behind just one SEC team, Texas, and ahead of seven others from the strongest college football conference in the land. So, the question becomes is a one-loss Notre Dame team better qualified than a two-loss crew from a glob of SEC teams? After all, Touchdown Jesus has broad shoulders and is in a position to host a Round One game, provided they take care of business today and next week at USC and perhaps get a little help from Indiana and Texas. There is no denying that Irish QB Riley Leonard has stepped up his game. Naysayers will argue that every single Power Four team in playoff consideration scheduled a minimum of nine Power Four opponents. Notre Dame scheduled eight. The Irish will play only three actual road games. One of those came against Purdue, which is 1-9. Every other team in playoff contention will play more road games than Notre Dame. The bottom line, though, is if the Irish win these next two, they're on easy street. However, today is another issue. They had better not fall asleep on the undefeated Army. The Black Knights are one of only three teams in the nation that have mowed down every opponent 'in the stats' this season. They also rank No. 1 in scoring defense and rushing offense. And regarding scoring defense, the Army is **5-0 ATS** in games after allowing seven or fewer points in its last contest. Conversely, Notre Dame has won eight games in a row, with seven wins by three touchdowns or more. And 10-0 or greater double-digit underdogs have been on a **1-8 SUATS** run since 2008, while undefeated military teams have been **0-6 SUATS** against the Irish since 1985. Army has played 38 games at Yankee Stadium, where they are 17-17-4 all-time. Notre Dame has played 25 games at Yankee Stadium, where they are 15-6-3. But the bottom line is when push comes to shove; military teams are **17-5 ATS** since 1990 when they rushed for 230 or more yards against the Irish. They lead the nation in rushing offense at 335 yards per game while gaining over 3,000 yards on the ground this season. Yes. We're in the Army now!

Alabama over OKLAHOMA by 6

Talk about being up against it. The 4-6 Sooners will need wins against Alabama today and next week at LSU to maintain their 24-game bowl skein, currently the second-longest in the nation. Head coach Brent Venables can look at it two ways: 1) He accomplishes the feat and is back as OU's coach in 2025, or 2) he fails to win both games, and he is out the door and halfway down the block. With it, Oklahoma is **17-0 SU and 13-3 ATS** at home when coming off a conference road loss, as well as **3-0 SUATS** in their Last Home Games. Meanwhile, Alabama holds the No. 7 slot in the current CFP rankings. It is tied with Georgia, Tennessee, and Ole Miss with two losses in the SEC, who are all still vying for CFP at-large berths... but the Tide has the inside track to the championship game due to their opponents' cumulative conference record. The Tide's unreliable 3-7 ATS record of 14 or fewer points as a road favorite puts us on the life-support Sooners.

FRESNO STATE over Colorado State by 6

Yes, Colorado State is 7-3 / 5-0 this season, but the Rams are not satisfied. CSU started the season 2-3, has won five in a row, and now controls its destiny to qualify for the Mountain West title game. A win here and next week at home against Utah State would do it, leaving UNLV in third place, on the outside looking in. It won't be a cakewalk tonight, though, with the 5-5 Bulldogs scratching and clawing to earn a bowl berth. In addition, Fresno is 11-2 ATS as either a dog or a favorite of fewer than six points in Last Home Games, including **6-0 ATS** in the last six. In addition, the host stands 11-4 ATS in this series. With the buttheads just 3-8 SUATS in road finales, and the pressure squarely on the Rams, Fresno becomes the play in this fray.

PRO FOOTBALL

Thursday, November 21

Pittsburgh over CLEVELAND by 6

So, how valuable has Pittsburgh PK Chris Boswell been to Pittsburgh this year? The Steelers improved to 8-1 against Baltimore in the 2020s in last week's 18-16 win over the Ravens when Boswell nailed six field goals to power Pittsburgh. FYI: Boswell accumulated 126 fantasy points in the whole year last season. He has scored 130 fantasy points thus far this season. The concern in this game, though, is Russell Wilson's QB Rating is falling like the November temperature, going from 114.9 to 93.6 to 67.5 throughout his last three starts with Pittsburgh. Meanwhile, for Cleveland, when it rains, it pours. Left tackle Dawand Jones, who's started eight of the Browns' ten games this season, will miss the remainder of the year after suffering a fractured ankle in Week 10 against the New Orleans Saints. This comes just three games after the Browns announced Jones would be the starting left tackle moving forward, replacing Jedrick Wills Jr. It's a continuing part of the injury overhaul to Cleveland's once top-rated offensive line. So, while the Steelers are **6-0 ATS** when coming off a division home game, and the visiting team is **5-0 ATS** in this series, it's difficult backing a team on the decline that is 9-39-1 SU in this series since 2000. With the Browns **5-27-2 ATS** in outright losses as a division home dog this decade, including 0-2 ATS under Kevin Stefanski, our money is on the hot burgers tonight.

Sunday, November 24

3★ BEST BET

Kansas City over CAROLINA by 7

It took 328 days, but the Kansas City Chiefs finally lost a football game, handing the defending Super Bowl champs their first season

loss while snapping their 15-game win streak from Christmas 2023. With it, Patrick Mahomes has started 124 games (regular season and playoffs), and this was just the fifth time he lost by more than one score. His reward is to lay more points in this contest AT Carolina than the Chiefs have in any game this season. The Well-Oiled Machine chips in, noting that defending Super Bowl champions that have opened the season 6-0 or better are just **8-5 SU and 5-8 ATS** the next game when coming off their initial loss of the season, meaning they've gone on to lose again a second straight time nearly 38 % of the time. With the Chiefs notorious for playing one-score games, expect them to play down to the Panthers' level today. Two instructions: Hold your nose. Take the points.

Minnesota over CHICAGO by 8

It was grin-and-bear-it time for Chicago last week when they snapped a negative three-game ITS (In The Stats) streak while outgaining the Packers. The 'bear' fact of the matter is they fell to 0-11 in the last eleven games against Green Bay and are now 0-4 in games since their Bye week losing, 20-19 when the attempted field goal on the last play of the game was blocked by the Pack. It did not hurt for Minnesota that QB Sam Darnold did not throw an interception in last week's ten-point win against the troubled Titans after tossing five in the previous two weeks. In case you didn't know, Justin Jefferson's 81 receiving yards in Sunday's win pushed him to 6,811 career receiving yards, passing Torry Holt (6,784) for the most in NFL history in a player's first five seasons. With the visiting team **4-0 ATS** of late in this series and Minny 4-1 ATS in its last five division travels, look for the getting worse by the week bad news Bears to fall to 1-5 ATS in the third of a three-game homestand today.

WASHINGTON over Dallas by 6

Things are not going your way when your opponent's defense outscores your offense in the second half of a game. As a result, it's five consecutive losses for the shrinking Cowboys for the first time since 2015, when they went 4-12. And you know times are tough when the Commanders are installed as favorites between these two bitter division rivals. How rare is it, you ask? Try this: the last time Washington was installed as a favorite in this series was in 2017. The history book supports this sentiment, noting that **Washington is 8-25-1 when laying points to Dallas**, including **0-5 ATS** as double-digit chalk. That makes the Cowboys a certified DIA, DIA dog – dominating dogs in action, doing it again. Dallas is also 3-0 ATS when coming off a Monday Night game and **5-1 ATS** in this series' last six overall games. Washington is **0-4-1 ATS** after a division road game and 2-9 ATS in its previous eleven. It may be hard to do, but you must either take it or leave it.

Tampa Bay over NY GIANTS by 1

We're not sure which is worse – the sorry state of Big Blue or that of Gang Green. We do know that it appears that Daniels Jones' days in the Big Apple are as good as over. With it, it's the return of Tommy 'Cutlet' Devito behind center for the G-Men. Can the 'Cutlet' be a savior for the ugly mess that stinks even worse than the streets of New York City filled with migrants piled upon migrants? The good news for Blue is its **5-0-1 ATS** record against foes coming off a Bye week and the 4-1-1 ATS record in head-to-head games in this series. Tampa brings an oppositional **1-6 ATS** mark in games against rested opponents and an Ugly Betty **0-10 ATS** record in games after tackling division rival Carolina. It's Cutlet time in the Big Apple today!

MIAMI over New England by 11

If it looks like the Dolphins are finding their groove, it's because they are. With Tua healthy and back behind center and Tyreek Hill with touchdowns in consecutive games, winning its tenth straight game in November doesn't figure to be a problem for Miami today. Tagovailoa completed 28 of his 36 passes for 288 yards and three touchdowns in Week 11 against the Raiders and was pressured on a season-low 16.2% of his dropbacks. The Fish have fried the Pats in this series, going **7-1 SU and 8-0 ATS** in the last eight matchups. They are also **7-1 ATS** as single-division home chalk. On the other side, New England is **1-5 ATS** in its last six division road games. It's time to hop on Flipper's back.

HOUSTON over Tennessee by 3

The Texans wouldn't back down in their Monday Night mauling of the Cowboys. However, our issue with the game is that the cuffs and the collars did not match Houston's body of work. In other words, a 34-10 does not equate to the game's stat that saw Texans edge the Boys, 391-388, In total yardage. That often leads to a false sense of security, which will likely come into play today. Houston is not accustomed to laying this kind of wood for openers, going 3-10 ATS as chalk of five or more points. They are also **1-6 ATS** in the last seven division home games and just 1-4 ATS in a post-Monday Night performance. Through all of the Titans' struggles this season, they own the loop's 2nd-ranked overall defense, which should be enough to bring them in under this tariff. Go ahead and say it, "Gimme Tennessee and the points."

Denver over LAS VEGAS by 10

The Broncos are kicking butt, and the Raiders have a pulse with a new offensive coordinator. In the first game since Vegas offensive coordinator Luke Getsy was fired, the Raiders offense flowed much better under interim OC Scott Turner, the son of former NFL head coach Norv Turner. Rookie phenom TE Brock Bowers also saw a career-high 16 targets. Turner's offense involved Bowers heavily, and the rookie did what he could, but Las Vegas' running game couldn't get going. The Broncos and rookie QB Bo Nix, though, are the talk of the AFC. Nix has kick-started the offense and is suddenly in the talk of NFL Rookie of the Year following last week's season-high 307 yards and four touchdowns in the Broncos' 38-6 burial of the Falcons. And the Denver defense hasn't always received the credit it deserves, yet it ranks No. 3 overall in the league. Meanwhile, the Sinners ride a six-game losing streak into this game and look like a team running out of gas. That's not good news, mainly when Denver head coach Sean Payton resides in this week's **TRIVIA TEASER** on page 2. Lay the points.

Arizona over SEATTLE by 6

Seahawks' QB Geno Smith validates himself with each outing. While he's been inconsistent in 2024, his confidence in himself in last week's 20-17 victory over San Francisco was stirring, finishing 25 of 39 for 221 yards, an interception, and the game's most crucial rushing score. That's the value of a veteran quarterback with the physical tools to lead a team to victory. With it, Seattle is currently ranked No. 9 in the NFC Playoff Picture, ahead of the 49ers. The season's surprise team, though, is Arizona, the leader in the NFC West and No. 3 in the Playoff seeding. The Redbirds bring a filthy 2-12 ATS mark into this game after allowing seven or fewer points, but Seattle is **1-6 ATS** in its last seven division hosters. With two teams coming off divergent results, we'll hop on Kyler Murray and his **23-12-1 ATS career record** in NFL road games, including 19-8-1 ATS when not laying points. You should, too.

4★ BEST BET
San Francisco over GREEN BAY by 10

With a blocked, would-be game-winning field goal in the game's final play, Green Bay secured their 11th straight victory over Chicago dating back to 2019. That's the longest active winning streak of any NFL team over another. Packers' QB Jordan Love has been intercepted in all eight games he has played in 2024. He's the first QB with one or more interceptions in each of his first eight games since the Broncos' Case Keenum did it in 2018 and the first Packers QB to do that since Irv Comp in 1944. Enter the banged-up 49ers, who are re-gaining health one week at a time. Frisco is **6-1 ATS** after hosting a division foe and **5-0 SUATS** in Game Eleven of the season. Green Bay counters at 9-0 ATS in its last eleven games against AFC West opposition and 6-0 ATS after playing on the division road in its previous game. So where do we turn? To our favorite NFL handicapping metric – the running game. It's where the Niners shine in underdog roles, going 63-26-4 ATS when taking points in games where they rushed for 110 or more yards. For more, see **THE CLINCHER: When San Francisco is an underdog and rushes the ball for 150 or more rush yards, they zoom to 36-4-1 ATS.** And that's where we'll be this Sunday.

LA RAMS over Philadelphia by 3

It was said that QB Matthew Stafford may have heard the obituaries written about the Rams' season or the whispers that he might be heading toward the twilight of his career. Whatever the case, Stafford was dialed in Sunday against a Patriots defense coming off the best showing of its 2024 season, throwing four touchdown passes and 295 yards. With it, Los Angeles returns home having wormed its way up to the No. 8 seed in the NFL Playoff Picture, where they'll host the NFC's No. 2 current seed, Philadelphia. However, the Rams' defense is suddenly standing tall these days. They pressured New England QB Drake Maye on 47.8% of his dropbacks, with 11 defenders generating at least one pressure. Jared Verse generated a team-leading five pressures, with four coming in less than 2.5 seconds. When pressured, Maye was 11 of 18 for 96 yards, one touchdown, and one interception. The Eagles, who appear ready to give the Lions a run at the No. 1 seed, have won six games since their Bye week. They are, however, just **1-6 ATS** in the last seven games against the NFC West and could be peering ahead to the Ravens. In addition, the Green Birds' **1-5 ATS** away record on Sunday Nights when coming off a win seals the deal.

Monday, November 25
5★ BEST BET
LA CHARGERS over Baltimore by 10

Welcome to the ONLY matchup on this week's NFL card featuring a pair of winning teams. It's the Harbaugh Bowl, and to that, we turn to burn Roger Goodell's ear and ask, "Where have all the winning teams gone?" The Ravens should be thankful for its record. They rank dead last in Pass Defense, and possibly working without Roquan Smith and Kyle Hamilton (check their status) won't help. The Ravens' loss to the Steelers is a game they'd like to have back. They outgained Pittsburgh but lost the time of possession battle by more than 12 minutes and faltered on third down, finishing 4 for 11. By all accounts, it was the Ravens' worst offensive showing of the year. On the other side of the field, the Chargers blew a 21-point lead but rebounded late to pull out an exciting 34-27 win with a last-second field goal. The good news for the Bolts is that they are **10-1 ATS** in games after battling the Bengals. They are also 16-6 ATS on Monday Nights versus non-division foes, including **7-0 ATS** when the foe enters off a win. Grab the points and then check out **THE CLINCHER: Chargers' head coach Jim Harbaugh is 38-15 SU and 35-15-2 ATS in his NFL career versus non-division opponents, including 13-3 ATS versus .700 or greater opponents.**

Wise Guys Contest
Sponsored by PlaybookSports.com

THE WISE GUYS

Now in its 35th year, the WISE GUYS CONTEST is a Winners-take-all handicapping event sponsored by PlaybookSports.com. All plays are graded against the lines posted after 4:00 PM Mondays on the WISE GUYS CONTEST page at PlaybookSports.com. Each week below we'll post Single Plays from the Top 20 point-earners. Following the play is their overall Win-Loss record / Double Play record / Total Points earned to date.

Contestant	Pick	Record	Contestant	Pick	Record
Andy Iskoe logical7@cox.net	PACKERS -2.5	16-6 / 0-0 / 27 pts	**Kelly In Vegas** kelly@wagertalk.com	Arizona +12.5	13-9 / 0-0 / 18 pts
BB Documented Plays www.the swami.com	Kansas +3.5	11-11 / 1-0 / 17 pts	**Ken Thomson** ken@sportsxradio.com	Arizona State -3.5	14-8 / 0-0 / 19 pts
Captain Morgan playbooksports.com	Indiana +12.5	13-9 / 0-0 / 19 pts	**Luis Stopa** stopa12@yahoo.com	CARDINALS -0.5	13-9 / 1-0 / 22 pts
Chris Thurston cthurston18@gmail.com	Kansas +3.5	12-10 / 1-0 / 21 pts	**Marco D'Angelo** marco@wagertalk.com	Nebraska -2.5	13-9 / 0-0 / 20 pts
CR Plays jeffparetts@gmail.com	PACKERS -2.5	15-7 / 0-0 / 23 pts	**Mike Muzyka** mjmsportsline@aol.com	PANTHERS +11.5	11-11 / 0-0 / 17 pts
Dwayne Bryant jmsports@gmx.com	CARDINALS -0.5	11-11 / 0-0 / 17 pts	**Norm Hitzges** norm1310@gmail.com	COMMANDERS -10.5	13-9 / 0-0 / 21 pts
Jeff Michaels jmsports@gmx.com	EAGLES U50.5	13-9 / 0-0 / 19 pts	**Prime Sports Network** nanadepalma1@aol.com	Ucla +4.5	12-10 / 1-0 / 19 pts
JH Sportsline jhsportsline@yahoo.com	COLTS +7.5	14-8 / 0-0 / 20 pts	**Ralph Michaels** calsports@aol.com	Old Dominion -2.5	10-12 / 0-0 / 17 pts
Jim Feist kelly@wagertalk.com	CHARGERS +3.5	12-10 / 1-0 / 19 pts	**Ross Benjamin** benjaminsports@yahoo.com	Ohio State -12.5	14-8 / 0-0 / 20 pts
Joe Nelson nelly@nellysports.com	RAIDERS +5.5	12-10 / 0-0 / 17 pts	**Stormin' Norman** tica0004@hotmail.com	CHARGERS +3.5	17-5 / 1-1 / 25 pts

ALSO WITH 17 POINTS: TD Tony.

To view the entire Wise Guys standings, including Triple, Double and Single plays, visit www.PlaybookSports.com and cash in this weekend for only $15!

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PlaybookSports.com ON AIR

2024 NFL WEEK TWELVE

STEELERS VS. BROWNS
Line: Phi -4 / OU: 49.5

Nothing Beats Free Videos

Your favorite PLAYBOOK EXPERTS share personal videos highlighting free picks and winning tips on the weekly football card. To access today's video lineup simply go to: pb.buzz/video

THE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP: O/U STYLE

All games played on this week's NFL schedule are listed below. As always, the number listed first is the 'OVER' and the number listed second is the 'UNDER'. If you like what you see, there's much more – including **5 NFL O/U BEST BETS** – inside the **2024 Playbook 'TOTALS' TIPSHEET** by Victor King – the definitive weekly OU newsletter. A single issue is only $11.00. Rest-of-Season subscription is $39.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2024 "Totals Train"!
*This week's GAME 12 Playbook O/U TREND play: Titans @ Texans **'UNDER' the TOTAL'**

2024 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK TWELVE

GAME MATCHUPS	KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
Pittsburgh (Open: 42)	3-1 OU aft Bal... 5-2 OU on Thursdays... but 3-25 OU as RF's 3 > pts... 3-12 OU off dog win... 2-7 OU bef Cincy
CLEVELAND	3-0 OU aft allow 35 > pts... 3-1 OU on Thursdays... 3-1 OU L4 vs Pit... 6-2 OU Game 11... but 1-6 OU L7 div HG
Detroit (50.5)	3-0 OU bef Chi... 6-1 OU bef div HG... 4-1 OU aft score 40+ pts... 4-1 OU aft non-conf HG... 8-2 OU as non-conf RF's
INDIANAPOLIS	4-0 OU L4 vs Det (63.5)... 3-0 OU Game 12... 4-1 OU as non-conf HD's... but 0-4 OU aft Jets... 2-7 OU vs .800 > opp
Kansas City (41.5)	6-1 OU aft Buf... 5-1 OU vs .333 < non-div opp... 4-1 OU as RF's 7 > pts... but 0-5 OU vs opp off Bye... 1-4 OU Game 11
CAROLINA	10-1 OU aft Bye... 7-3 OU off BB SU wins... but 1-4 OU bef TBay... 1-3 OU L4 non-conf HG... 1-3 OU vs .800 > opp
Minnesota (41)	4-1 OU Game 11... 4-1 OU w/ sing revenge... 6-2 OU aft Tenn... but 0-4 OU L4 as div RF's... 0-3 OU L3 vs Chic (32.0)
CHICAGO	3-1 OU Game 11... 3-1 OU bef div RG... but 1-4 OU in 3rd straight HG... 3-8 OU aft GBay... 3-6 OU bef Det
Dallas (43)	5-0 OU aft Hou... 4-0 OU Game 11... 5-1 OU aft non-conf HG... 5-1 OU L6 as div RD's... but 1-3 OU L4 away vs Wash
WASHINGTON	5-0 OU bef non-conf HG... 4-0 OU aft div RG... 3-1 OU aft Thursday gm... 3-1 OU vs opp off Mon gm... but 1-4 OU aft Phil
Tampa Bay (43.5)	6-1 OU L7 vs NYG... but 0-5 OU away vs .333 < opp... 0-4 OU aft Bye... 1-4 OU vs opp off Bye... 1-3 OU bef Car
NY GIANTS	0-5 OU vs opp off Bye... 0-5 OU L5 vs NFC South... 2-22 OU as HD's 6 < pts... 1-4 OU aft Bye... 1-4 OU off SU loss 3 < pts
New England (43.5)	3-0 OU in 2nd meeting vs Mia (49.6)... 5-1 OU as div RD's > 3 pts... but 0-5 OU aft non-conf HG... 0-4 OU bef Bye
MIAMI	6-1 OU aft Raiders... 4-1 OU bef GBay... but 0-3 OU bef Thursday gm... 1-5 OU in 2nd of BB HG... 1-3 OU Game 11
Tennessee (43)	0-4 OU L4 vs Hou (31.0)... 0-3 OU Game 11... 1-5 OU L6 div RG... 1-4 OU in 1st of BB RG... 1-4 OU vs opp off Mon gm
HOUSTON	0-6 OU aft Monday gm... 0-4-1 OU home TY... 0-4 OU Game 12... 1-5 OU as favs 5 > pts... 1-4 OU bef Jags
Denver (41)	5-1 OU aft non-conf HG... but 0-8 OU L8 as div RF's... 0-6 OU bef Mon gm... 0-4 OU Game 12... 1-6 OU aft allow 7 < pts
LAS VEGAS	4-0 OU L4 div HG... 6-2 OU aft Mia... but 3-9 OU off SU loss 21 > pts... 2-5 OU L7 home vs Den... 3-7 OU bef KC
Arizona (48)	3-1 OU aft Bye... but 0-3 OU L3 div RG... 0-3 OU off SU win 21 > pts... 1-3 OU Game 11... 2-6 OU aft non-conf HG
SEATTLE	4-2 OU aft div RG... but 0-5 OU L5 home vs Arz (36.6)... 1-5 OU off dog win... 1-5 OU vs opp off Bye... 1-3 OU aft SF
San Francisco (48)	4-0 OU off SU fav loss... 4-0 OU aft div HG... 8-2 OU L10 vs GB (50.4)... 3-1 OU aft Sea... but 3-8 OU Game 11
GREEN BAY	5-0-1 OU bef non-conf HG... 4-0 OU Game11... but 0-5-1 OU vs NFC West... 1-4 OU bef Thur gm... 2-6 OU aft Chi
Philadelphia (48)	3-0 OU Game 11... 4-1 OU L6 vs Rams (57.2)... 5-2 OU aft Wash... but 1-5 OU aft div HG... 1-4 OU as non-div RF's
LA RAMS	4-1 OU vs .750 > opp... 9-3 OU as HD's > 2 pts... 4-2 OU Game 11... but 0-5 OU home vs NFC East... 3-6 OU vs opp off Thur gm
Baltimore (48)	3-0 OU TY vs AFC West... 5-1 OU on Mondays... but 0-3 OU L3 vs LAC (34.0)... 1-5 OU Game 12... 2-6 OU aft div RG
LA CHARGERS	8-2 OU aft Cinc... 6-3 OU 3rd straight HG... but 0-6 OU on Mondays... 1-4 OU as non-div conf HD's... 1-4 OU Game 11
Bye Week **Bye Week**	Atlanta Falcons Buffalo Bills
Bye Week **Bye Week**	Cincinnati Bengals Jacksonville Jaguars
Bye Week **Bye Week**	New Orleans Saints New York Jets

KENNY WHITE'S 2024 FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS
Power Ratings courtesy of KennyWhiteSports.com

Rnk: Overall rank nationally (130 teams) • **PWR**: Numerical team power rating • **HF**: Numerical home field value

NCAA

Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF
117	Air Force	Mountain West	94.5	4.5
128	Akron	Mid-American	89.5	2
4	Alabama	Southeastern	128.5	6
92	Appalachian St	Sun Belt	101	4.5
55	Arizona	Big-12	109	5
49	Arizona St	Big-12	111.5	3.5
28	Arkansas	Southeastern	115	4.5
103	Arkansas St	Sun Belt	98	3.5
65	Army	American Athletic	106.5	3.5
21	Auburn	Southeastern	116	5.5
131	Ball St	Mid-American	88	3
21	Baylor	Big 12	116	4
25	Boise St	Mountain West	115.5	5.5
55	Boston College	Atlantic Coast	109	4
77	Bowling Green	Mid-American	103.5	2
124	Buffalo	Mid-American	90	3
31	BYU	Big 12	114.5	5
36	California	Atlantic Coast	113.5	4
117	C Michigan	Mid-American	94.5	2.5
112	Charlotte	American Athletic	96.5	2.5
53	Cincinnati	Big 12	109.5	4.5
11	Clemson	Atlantic Coast	120	5.5
95	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	100.5	3.5
21	Colorado	Big 12	116	4.5
97	Colorado St	Mountain West	100	4.5
75	Duke	Atlantic Coast	105	4.5
90	East Carolina	American Athletic	101.5	4
121	E Michigan	Mid-American	94	2
25	Florida	Southeastern	115.5	5.5
117	Florida Atlantic	American Athletic	94.5	3
115	Florida Int'l	Conference USA	95.5	2.5
68	Florida St	American Coast	106	6
77	Fresno St	Mountain West	103.5	4.5
2	Georgia	Southeastern	129.5	6.5
103	Geo Southern	Sun Belt	98	4
109	Georgia St	Sun Belt	97	2
42	Georgia Tech	Atlantic Coast	112.5	4.5
109	Hawaii	Mountain West	97	4.5
65	Houston	Big 12	106.5	4
51	Illinois	Big Ten	110.5	4.5
15	Indiana	Big Ten	118	4.5
31	Iowa	Big Ten	114.5	5
17	Iowa St	Big 12	117.5	5.5
82	Jacksonville St	Conference USA	102.5	5.5
70	James Madison	Sun Belt	105.5	4.5
36	Kansas	Big 12	113.5	4.5
17	Kansas St	Big 12	117.5	5.5
133	Kennesaw St	Conference USA	84.5	3.5
134	Kent St	Mid-American	79	4
25	Kentucky	Southeastern	115.5	4
70	Liberty	Conference USA	105.5	4
64	Louisiana	Sun Belt	107	3.5
117	Louisiana Tech	Conference USA	94.5	4.5
15	Louisville	Atlantic Coast	118	5.5
13	LSU	Southeastern	119	6
99	Marshall	Sun Belt	99.5	4
61	Maryland	Big Ten	108.5	4.5
45	Memphis	American Athletic	112	3
9	Miami (FL)	Atlantic Coast	123.5	3.5
70	Miami (OH)	Mid-American	105.5	2.5
42	Michigan	Big Ten	112.5	5.5
55	Michigan St	Big Ten	109	4.5
124	Middle Tenn St	Conference USA	90	3.5
51	Minnesota	Big Ten	110.5	5
88	Mississippi St	Southeastern	102	5
28	Missouri	Southeastern	115	5
82	Navy	American Athletic	102.5	4
68	NC State	Atlantic Coast	106	4.5
34	Nebraska	Big Ten	114	5
108	Nevada	Mountain West	97.5	4
99	New Mexico	Mountain West	99.5	3
132	New Mexico St	Conference USA	86.5	4
55	North Carolina	Atlantic Coast	109	4.5
82	North Texas	American Athletic	102.5	3.5
82	No Illinois	Mid-American	102.5	3.5
77	Northwestern	Big Ten	103.5	3
9	Notre Dame	Independent	123.5	5.5
1	Ohio State	Big Ten	130.5	6.5
103	Ohio U	Mid-American	98	4.5
20	Oklahoma	Southeastern	116.5	5.5
45	Oklahoma St	Big 12	112	5
82	Old Dominion	Sun Belt	102.5	2.5
6	Ole Miss	Southeastern	127.5	5.5
5	Oregon	Big Ten	128	5.5
97	Oregon St	Pac-12	100	5.5
7	Penn St	Big Ten	127	6
45	Pitt	Atlantic Coast	112	4.5
102	Purdue	Big Ten	98.5	4.5
99	Rice	American Athletic	99.5	3
53	Rutgers	Big Ten	109.5	4.5
103	Sam Houston St	Conference USA	98	3.5
114	San Diego St	Mountain West	96	3.5
92	San Jose St	Mountain West	101	4.5
17	SMU	Atlantic Coast	117.5	4.5
88	South Alabama	Sun Belt	102	3
28	South Carolina	Southeastern	115	5.5
124	Southern Miss	Sun Belt	90	4
95	Stanford	Atlantic Coast	100.5	4
55	Syracuse	Atlantic Coast	109	5
21	TCU	Big 12	116	5.5
123	Temple	American Athletic	90.5	3
8	Tennessee	Southeastern	125.5	6
3	Texas	Southeastern	129	5.5
13	Texas A&M	Southeastern	119	6
40	Texas St	Sun Belt	113	4
61	Texas Tech	Big 12	108.5	5.5
82	Toledo	Mid-American	102.5	4
103	Troy	Sun Belt	98	4
40	Tulane	American Athletic	113	3
128	Tulsa	American Athletic	89.5	3.5
80	UAB	American Athletic	103	4.5
36	UCF	Big 12	113.5	4.5
55	UCLA	Big Ten	109	3.5
90	UConn	Independent	101.5	3.5
116	UL-Monroe	Sun Belt	95	3
124	UMass	Independent	90	2
45	UNLV	Mountain West	112	3
11	USC	Big Ten	120	5.5
80	USF	American Athletic	103	3
49	Utah	Big 12	111.5	5.5
109	Utah St	Mountain West	97	4
128	UTEP	Conference USA	89.5	3
76	UTSA	American Athletic	104	3
70	Vanderbilt	Southeastern	105.5	4
63	Virginia	Atlantic Coast	107.5	4
34	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	114	5
70	Wake Forest	Atlantic Coast	105.5	4.5
36	Washington	Big Ten	113.5	5.5
65	Washington St	Pac-12	106.5	4
42	West Virginia	Big 12	112.5	5.5
92	W Kentucky	Conference USA	101	4
112	W Michigan	Mid-American	96.5	4
31	Wisconsin	Big Ten	114.5	5.5
121	Wyoming	Mountain West	94	5

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

NFL

Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF
18	Arizona Cardinals	NFC West	101.5	2.5
15	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	102	2.5
3	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	109	3.5
6	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	105.5	3
32	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	91.5	1.5
26	Chicago Bears	NFC North	97.5	2.5
7	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	104.5	2
23	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	98.5	2.5
31	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	94	3
10	Denver Broncos	AFC West	103.5	2.5
1	Detroit Lions	NFC North	110.5	2.5
7	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	104.5	2.5
15	Houston Texans	AFC South	102	2.5
22	Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	99.5	2
24	Jacksonville Jaguars	AFC South	98	1.5
2	Kansas City Chiefs	AFC West	109.5	2
24	Las Vegas Raiders	AFC West	98	2.5
7	L.A. Chargers	AFC West	104.5	1.5
21	L.A. Rams	NFC West	100	2
15	Miami Dolphins	AFC East	102	2.5
12	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	103	1.5
28	New England Pats	AFC East	97	1.5
18	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	101.5	2
29	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	96.5	1.5
18	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	101.5	2
4	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	107.5	1.5
10	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	103.5	1.5
4	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	107.5	1.5
12	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	103	1.5
26	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	97.5	2
30	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	96	2
12	Wash Commanders	NFC East	103	1.5

FOR WEEK ENDING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024	3★ BEST BET	4★ BEST BET	5★ BEST BET
COLLEGE	NC STATE	KENTUCKY	HOUSTON
NFL	COLTS	49ERS	LA CHARGERS
UPSET GAME	DUKE	SUBSCRIBE TO PLAYBOOK TODAY 800.752.9266	

2024 COLLEGE & PRO FOOTBALL - NOVEMBER 19-25

Listed next to the games below are two entries: **OL** is the opening line on the contest and **PB** 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

Column 1

#	Team	OL	PB
	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19		
101	W MICHIGAN 7:30 PM	7	10
102	C MICHIGAN ESPN2		
103	AKRON 7:00 PM	10	5
104	KENT ST CBSSN		
105	NORTHERN ILLINOIS 8:00 PM		6
106	MIAMI OHIO ESPN	2'	
	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20		
107	OHIO 7:00 PM		3
108	TOLEDO ESPN2	2'	
109	BUFFALO 7:00 PM		
110	E MICHIGAN ESPNU	2'	6
	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21		
111	PITTSBURGH 8:15 PM	4'	6
112	CLEVELAND PRIME		
113	NC STATE ★ 7:30 PM		3
114	GEORGIA TECH ESPN	9	
	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22		
115	TEMPLE 7:00 PM		
116	UTSA ESPN2	17	20
117	PURDUE 8:00 PM		
118	MICHIGAN ST FOX	13	17
119	UNLV 10:00 PM	7'	3
120	SAN JOSE ST FS1		
	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23		
121	GA SOUTHERN 3:30 PM		
122	COAST CARO ESPN+	2	8
123	SMU 12:00 PM	10	3
124	VIRGINIA ESPN2		
125	PITTSBURGH 4:00 PM		
126	LOUISVILLE ESPN2	8	16
127	SAM HOUSTON ST 12:00 PM		
128	JAX STATE CBSSN	6'	1
129	WAKE FOREST 12:00 PM		
130	MIAMI FLA ESPN	24	15
131	UCF 3:30 PM	3	1
132	W VIRGINIA ESPNU		

Column 2

#	Team	OL	PB
133	BOWLING GREEN 2:00 PM	11'	6
134	BALL ST ESPN+		
135	NORTH CAROLINA 12:00 PM	2'	3
136	BOSTON COLL CW		
137	VIRGINIA TECH 8:00 PM	2'	
138	DUKE ★ ACC		8
139	COLORADO 3:30 PM	2'	
140	KANSAS FOX		1
141	OLE MISS 7:30 PM	9'	2
142	FLORIDA ABC		
143	MARSHALL ESPNU 12:00 PM		
144	OLD DOMINION	2	6
145	UCONN 12:00 PM		
146	SYRACUSE ACC	10'	6
147	CHARLOTTE 3:00 PM	2'	
148	FLA ATLANTIC ESPN+		3
149	TULSA 3:30 PM		
150	S FLORIDA ESPN+	16	14
151	JAMES MADISON 2:30 PM	7	3
152	APP STATE ESPN+		
153	WISCONSIN 3:30 PM		3
154	NEBRASKA BTN	2	
155	PENN STATE 3:30 PM	12	
156	MINNESOTA CBS		1
157	IOWA 12:00 PM	6	10
158	MARYLAND BTN		
159	INDIANA 12:00 PM		
160	OHIO STATE FOX	11'	6
161	ILLINOIS		1
162	RUTGERS Peacock	2	
163	NORTHWESTERN 3:30 PM		
164	MICHIGAN FS1	12	6
165	UMASS 12:45 PM		
166	GEORGIA SEC	42	43
167	W KENTUCKY 1:00 PM	1	3
168	LIBERTY ESPN+		
169	UTEP 1:00 PM		
170	TENNESSEE ESPN+	41'	39
171	IOWA ST 7:30 PM	6	3
172	UTAH FOX		
173	SAN DIEGO ST 3:30 PM		3
174	UTAH ST CBSSN	4	

Column 3

#	Team	OL	PB
175	BYU 3:30 PM		6
176	ARIZONA ST ESPN	3'	
177	NEW MEXICO ST 2:30 PM		
178	MID TENN ST ESPN+	4	8
179	STANFORD 3:30 PM		
180	CALIFORNIA ACC	14	17
181	AIR FORCE 10:30 PM		
182	NEVADA FS1	4	1
183	FLORIDA INT'L 3:00 PM	9'	4
184	KENNESAW ST ESPN+		
185	TROY 5:00 PM		
186	LOUISIANA ESPN+	11'	7
187	ARIZONA 3:00 PM		
188	TCU ESPN+	11'	8
189	MISSOURI 4:15 PM	7'	11
190	MISS STATE SEC		
191	S ALABAMA ESPN+	23	24
192	SOUTHERN MISS 3:00 PM		
193	CINCINNATI 8:00 PM		
194	KANSAS ST ESPN2	8'	16
195	KENTUCKY ★ 3:30 PM		
196	TEXAS ABC	20	8
197	TEXAS TECH 3:30 PM	3'	8
198	OKLAHOMA ST ESPN+		
199	EAST CAROLINA 3:30 PM		
200	NORTH TEXAS ESPN+	3	4
201	GEORGIA ST 7:00 PM		
202	TEXAS ST ESPN+	19'	16
203	RICE 2:00 PM	7	3
204	UAB ESPN+		
205	LOUISIANA TECH 4:00 PM		
206	ARKANSAS ESPN+	21'	28
207	TEXAS A&M 7:30 PM	2'	
208	AUBURN ESPN		4
209	BAYLOR 7:00 PM	8	
210	HOUSTON ★ FS1		6
211	UL MONROE 3:00 PM		
212	ARKANSAS ST ESPN+	3'	11
213	USC 10:30 PM	5	
214	UCLA NBC		3
215	VANDERBILT 7:45 PM		
216	LSU SEC	9	6

Column 4

#	Team	OL	PB
217	BOISE ST 7:00 PM	22'	16
218	WYOMING CBSSN		
219	WASHINGTON ST 7:00 PM	13	3
220	OREGON ST CW		
221	ARMY 7:30 PM (Bronx, NY)		
222	NOTRE DAME NBC	17	10
223	ALABAMA 7:30 PM	14	6
224	OKLAHOMA ABC		
225	COLORADO ST 10:30 PM		
226	FRESNO ST CBSSN	2'	6
	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24		
251	DETROIT 1:00 PM	8	
252	INDIANAPOLIS ★ FOX		3
253	KANSAS CITY 1:00 PM	11	7
254	CAROLINA CBS		
255	MINNESOTA 1:00 PM	4	8
256	CHICAGO FOX		
257	DALLAS 1:00 PM		
258	WASHINGTON FOX	9'	6
259	TAMPA BAY 1:00 PM	3'	1
260	NY GIANTS CBS		
261	NEW ENGLAND 1:00 PM		
262	MIAMI CBS	7'	11
263	TENNESSEE 1:00 PM		
264	HOUSTON CBS	8	3
265	DENVER 4:05 PM	4	10
266	LAS VEGAS CBS		
267	ARIZONA 4:25 PM		6
268	SEATTLE FOX	Pk	
269	SAN FRANCISCO ★ 4:25 PM		10
270	GREEN BAY FOX	1	
271	PHILADELPHIA 8:20 PM	3	
272	LA RAMS NBC		3
	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25		
273	BALTIMORE ESPN 8:15 PM	3	
274	LA CHARGERS ★ ABC		10

BYES: ATLANTA, BUFFALO, CINCINNATI, NEW ORLEANS, NY JETS, JACKSONVILLE