

Marc Lawrence's Weekly
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THE BEST FOOTBALL NEWSLETTER ON THE PLANET™

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December 4-8, 2025

COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME FAST FACTS!

EVERY CONFERENCE TITLE GAME INSIDE!

AWESOME ANGLE 8-2-1 ATS LAST ELEVEN ISSUES!



- *'Betcha Didn't Know' Handicapping Article*
- *Awesome Angle and Tremendous Trends*
- *Incredible Stat of the Week*
- *Analysis on Every NFL and FBS College Game*
- *Best Bets and Key Plays*
- *Full Schedule with Opening Lines*
- *Kenny White's College & NFL Power Ratings*



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HELLO AGAIN

A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping

*Hello again hello
Just called to say hello
I couldn't sleep at all tonight
And I know it's late
But I couldn't wait*

Hello Again is a quintessential Neil Diamond ballad, blending heartfelt lyrics with a soaring melody to capture the pain and hope of reconnecting with someone dear.

The soundtrack for the film of the same name, where Diamond starred as Jess Robin, a Jewish cantor's son pursuing a music career.

The opening line to the song isn't just a verse, it's an emotional Morse code.

Some say it's the loneliest phone call you've never made – because you didn't know if they'd answer.

Diamond called this his love letter to memory. Think of it as a two-minute drill of the heart.

He isn't just crooning. He's under center, down six, clock ticking, no timeouts left. This is a quarterback calling an audible to a love he let slip through the cracks – and praying the receiver's still running the route in hopes of re-establishing rhythm.

It's reflected in the true return of the prodigal quarterback.

The song was released as a single in 1981, peaking at number 6 on the Billboard Hot 100 and number 3 on the Adult Contemporary chart. The soundtrack itself reached #2 on the Billboard albums chart and earned Diamond a Grammy for Best Score Soundtrack Album.

And speaking of making a comeback, let's tie that song to a situation in the NFL that has worked like a charm over the years. What we're looking to do is capitalize as division-hungry dogs playing with a triple-revenge chip on their shoulder.

Here's how it works... -

PLAY ON any NFL away division dog during the regular season seeking triple revenge-exact.

That's it. Simple enough.

Simply put, these puppies are 139-93-3 ATS in games dating back to 1980, including 64-38-2 ATS against a foe that scored 20 or fewer points in its last game.

And if our "Hello Again" tea was not a dog of 6 or more points in

its last game they zoom to **53-23-1 ATS**.

Say hello to the **New Orleans Saints** this week.

Better yet, if its Game 12 or later in the season, these same teams are **24-8 ATS**. With that, look for the **Saints** to come marching in this Sunday!

So just when it appears a team is on the rocks after taking it on the chin three straight times in division duels, you'll know exactly what to do.

It's Neil Diamond simply saying,

*Hello again hello
Just called to say hello
I couldn't sleep at all tonight
And I know it's late
But I couldn't wait to say
Hello my friend hello*

The college bowl games are right around the corner and NOW is the time to make plans to secure both of your copies of the **2025 PLAYBOOK COLLEGE BOWL GUIDE**. See the ad on page 6 or call toll free today to order the **Best College Bowl Guide On The Planet** at **800.752.9266** – you'll be glad you did!

Marc Lawrence



TRIVIA TEASER

THIS WEEK'S AMAZING SITUATIONAL PLAY

This head coach bounces back off a loss like a rubber ball, going **8-1 SUATS** in his career after a setback as a favorite, including **8-0 SUATS** with a .333 or greater record. Who is this week's bounce-back artist?

For the Trivia Teaser answer, turn to page 8.

AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK

PLAY ON any underdog of 5 or more points from Game Ten out if both teams are undefeated and the dog allows 14.5 or fewer PPG.

**Play ON:
INDIANA HOOSIERS (12/6)**

**COLLISION
COURSE**

**ATS W-L
Record 5/1987:
10-1
(91%)**

View Marc's Awesome Angle Of The Week and more at the PlaybookSports.com website!

2-MINUTE HANDICAP



FOR A COMPLETE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP OF EVERY GAME ON TODAY'S CARD, VISIT www.PLAYBOOKSPORTS.com

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.

NFL Games

TEAMS KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS

Friday, December 5	
CUSA CHAMPIONSHIP	
Kennesaw St JAX STATE	8-3 ATS TY... 4-0 aft score 35 > pts... 4-1 w/ revenge L2 Won 35-26 TY... 6-5 ATS TY (4-0 home)... 6-1 L7 as conf dogs
SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIP	
Troy J MADISON	8-3 ATS TY (4-1 away)... 8-1 off dog win... 10-2 dogs 17 > pts 7-4 ATS TY... 6-3 L9 vs revenge... 0-6 vs opp off dog win
AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP	
North Texas TULANE	9-2 ATS TY... 4-1 as favs 7 < pts TY... 3-7 away vs .750 > opp Won 45-37 LY... 0-4-1 home vs conf rev... 1-6 as dogs < 5 pts
MWC CHAMPIONSHIP	
Unlv BOISE STATE	5-1 ATS away TY... 6-0 in 2nd of BB RG... 6-3 as dogs 7 < pts Won 56-3 TY... SERIES: 5-0 L5... 6-1 L7 vs .750 > opp
Saturday, December 6	
BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP	
Byu Texas Tech	7-1 off SU home win 20 > pts... 13-2 L15 vs .900 > opp 10-1 ATS TY... 6-0 off shutout win... 10-1 as conf favs 10 > pts
MAC CHAMPIONSHIP	
Miami-OH W Michigan	6-5 ATS TY (0-4 as dogs)... 4-1 off home win 21 > pts 4-1-1 ATS TY as favs... 5-2 as favs 6 < pts... 3-10 w/ doub rev
SEC CHAMPIONSHIP	
Georgia Alabama	5-6 ATS TY... 5-0 w/ trip conf rev... 3-7 as conf favs < 7 pts SERIES: 3-0 SUATS L3... 7-4 ATS TY... 6-0 L6 as conf dogs
ACC CHAMPIONSHIP	
Duke Virginia	5-1-1 ATS TY... 7-1 as conf dogs 7 < pts... 1-9 aft score 45 > pts Won 34-17 TY... SERIES: 9-1 L10... 1-5-1 as conf favs 5 < pts
BIG 10 CHAMPIONSHIP	
Indiana Ohio State	3-0 vs undef conf opp L3Y... 1-4 off conf win 28 > pts SERIES: 3-1 L4... 9-1-1 ATS TY... 10-0-1 off conf road win 4 > pts

TEAMS KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS

Thursday, December 4	
Dallas DETROIT	6-0-1 aft Mia... 5-2 Thursdays vs div... 4-1 L5 div RG SERIES: 5-1 L6... 4-0 bef Buf... 10-3 L13 vs .666 > opp
Sunday, December 7	
Washington MINNESOTA	4-1 bef non-conf RG... 1-7 L8 vs NFC North... 1-6 bef LV SERIES: 5-1 L6... 4-2 L6 vs NFC South... 3-7 bef div HG
Miami NY JETS	SERIES: 3-1 L4... 1-4 as non-div conf RF's 3 > pts 7-0 aft div RG... 11-3 aft Thurs gm... 1-4 L5 vs NFC South
Tennessee CLEVELAND	1-4 in 2nd of BB div gms... 4-12 as RD's 5 < pts SERIES: 5-2 L7... 1-6 L6 div HG... 1-5 aft non-conf RG
Pittsburgh BALTIMORE	SERIES: Visitor 4-0... 5-2 aft div RG... 0-4 L4 vs NFC South 8-0 bef LAC... 7-3 L10 vs AFC West... 2-5 aft div RG
Seattle ATLANTA	0-6-1 aft Den... 1-5 aft Monday RG... 1-4 L5 div RG SERIES: Host 6-0... 5-0 L5 div HG... 1-9 as favs 5 > pts
Indianapolis JACKSONVILLE	SERIES: Visitor 3-0... 4-2 aft div HG... 1-7 vs NFC East 7-3 vs NFC South... 6-3 aft non-conf RG... 0-5 as favs 9 > pts
Chicago GREEN BAY	3-1 vs opp off Thurs gm... 0-4 vs opp off DD loss... 1-4 div RG SERIES: 10-2 L12... 5-0 aft GBay... 3-3 L16 vs < .500 opp
New Orleans TAMPA BAY	SERIES: 6-0 SU / 5-1 ATS L6... 5-0 as div RD's < 7 pts 2-8 aft Minn... 2-5 bef non-conf HG... 3-10 w/ div revenge
Denver LAS VEGAS	SERIES: 5-1 L6... 10-1-1 vs NFC West... 1-3 away in Domes 2-8 L10 vs AFC East... 1-3 aft Norl... 1-3 L4 non-conf HG
LA Rams ARIZONA	3-0 away aft Thur gm... 3-0 bef Min... 4-1 L5 vs NFC West 6-2 as non-div HF's 5 > pts... 0-3 aft non-conf RG
Cincinnati BUFFALO	5-1 aft Atl... 6-3 bef non-conf HG... 0-3-1 L2Y vs .750 > opp 8-1 in 2nd of BB div gms... 1-4 as div HF's 7 < pts
Houston KANSAS CITY	5-1 aft Atl... 6-3 bef non-conf HG... 0-3-1 L2Y vs .750 > opp 8-1 in 2nd of BB div gms... 1-4 as div HF's 7 < pts
Monday, December 8	
Philadelphia LA CHARGERS	6-0 L6 non-conf RG... 1-4 L5 vs NFC East... 2-8 Mon RG SERIES: 4-0 L4... 7-0 aft NYG... 4-1 L5 vs AFC North

BYE WEEK:

**Carolina Panthers, New England Patriots,
New York Giants, San Francisco 49ers**

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

INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

**The Texas Tech Red Raiders are
19-1-1 ATS in their last 21
outright wins as a favorite.**



HELLO, GOODBYE

When Alabama beat Florida, 28-21, to win the first-ever SEC championship game in 1992, it marked the beginning of

Division I college football conference title games.

This season, we focus on the defending national champion and how they perform in conference championship games the following year. As you might expect, these teams are often targeted, and it shows. Consider: Since 1996, a total of 14 teams have completed the cycle, going 10-4 SU but only 6-8 ATS.

Digging deeper, when they face a foe that won 10 or more games last season, they struggle significantly, with a record of 4-3 SU and **1-6 ATS** in these games. And if these opponents have a .916 or higher win percentage this season, the defending champs tend to falter, going **2-3 SU and 0-5 ATS**.

So while it was a "hello" again this season, it often turns into a "goodbye" by the end of the title game.

With that, be prepared to say "goodbye" to the **Ohio State Buckeyes**. It's been nice knowing you, Brutus.

THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL - DECEMBER 4-8

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

Friday, December 5

C-USA CHAMPIONSHIP

Amfirst Stadium - Jacksonville, AL

JACKSONVILLE STATE over Kennesaw by 6

Kennesaw is the 2025 version of Sam Houston State. Last year, SHSU won 10 games; this year, only 2; in '24, KSU won just 2, but this year it won 10 to earn a C-USA title spot. QB Amari Odom has accounted for at least five TDs in each of the last two Owls wins, but winning against JSU is something he hasn't accomplished. Jax won this year 35-26 and last year 63-24. The Gamecocks still love to run the football under HC Charles Kelly as they did under Rich Rodriguez before Rodriguez split for WVU Part 2, and the Cocks have the nation's leading rusher in Cam Cook. Cook ran for 1,583 yards with 15 touchdowns, scoring at least once in every game he played but one. He went for 139 and a score vs. the Owls on November 15. The old defensive coordinator spiel of "stop the run, stop the run" will be ringing down the hallways and meeting rooms in the Owls facility because if they do stop Cook somehow, they must deal with QB Caden Creel's legs too. Creel has the fifth most rushing yards in the nation as a QB, and the two leaders in that category play for service academies. Creel isn't nearly as dangerous with his arm but has thrown four TD passes in his last two games. CUSA teams coming off back-to-back SUATS wins as Kennesaw have only a 3-8 record in the title bout. Home teams in the Conference USA title game returning for a second straight title game season, who scored 34 or more in their last game, are **14-3 SUATS**. Jacksonville State runs more than Tom Cruise in a movie, and it appears to be an impossible mission for Kennesaw to stop them.

SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIP

Bridgeforth Stadium - Harrisonburgh, VA

JAMES MADISON over Troy by 24

Yes, Bob Chesney will be coaching the Mad Men for this game and a possible playoff affair, but then he treks cross-country to try and breathe life into UCLA. Much like Curt Cignetti, Chesney wins in buckets with a 20-5 mark in two seasons at JMU and 131-51 overall.

There can't be anyone other than Dukes' QB Alonza Barnett III to be named Sun Belt Player of the Year; he has accounted for 2,899 total yards, 20 TD passes, and 13 TD runs. RB Wayne Knight crossed the 1K threshold last weekend, plus he's caught 35 passes this season. JMU has won 10 straight, has held five teams to season-low yardage, and the **MIDWEEK ALERT** wants you to know that in each of the last five years, the winner of this game was the favorite. This is just the second time in the history of the Sun Belt title game we have a double-digit favorite, and the last time it happened, App. State failed to cover as an 11-point favorite. This JMU team seems special, though; they're **4-0 ATS** when they were matched up with a 20-point spread vs. weak .333 teams or worse. Don't forget the MadMen have won the stats by +199 yards per game while the Trojans are at minus 52 YPG. Give Troy credit for a huge bounce-back season after winning just four in 2024. Before that, they had made consecutive SBC title games under new Florida coach Jon Sumrall. Troy is also **3-27 outright** against teams with a .875 or better win percentage, including 1-11 SU and 4-8 ATS when the Trojans have a winning record. Troy is also 1-6 ITS (In the Stats) over their last seven games, and the odds of them capturing a conference record ninth title trophy are the same as Lane Kiffin being the honorary Grand Marshal of the Shakespeare's Birthday Parade next April in...Oxford, Mississippi.

AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Yulman Stadium - New Orleans, LA

TULANE over North Texas by 6

Unlike Lane Kiffin, whose claim that he wants to coach Ole Miss through the playoffs is being disputed by his former players, both Jon Sumrall and Eric Morris will remain with their teams until their seasons' end. Tulane may be 20th in the latest CFP rankings, but the Green Wave is projected 12th in the bracket, and with North Texas at 24, it appears likely the AAC title game winner will claim a spot. Tulane is riding a four-game win streak, and UNT has grabbed six wins in a row, all by at least 14 points. The Green Meanies are led by a guy who wasn't good enough to start for his varsity team, Drew Mestemaker, the RS-freshman whose inboxes and DM's are no doubt filled with messages from "well-wishers" offering a better life away from North Texas. Mestemaker has thrown for 3,835 yards and 29 touchdowns, leading the FBS in pass yards and tied for 4th in TDs. In his last three games, he's thrown for 1,136 yards, but what makes the Mean Green so hard to stop is an additional weapon in RB Caleb Hawkins, #13 in the nation with 1,216 yards. Tulane moves the ball too behind senior Jake Retzlaff, the former BYU QB, who leads the nation's 33rd-ranked offense in total yards. The trick with Retzlaff is not just his arm (2,717 yards), but his wheels, which have accounted for 561 yards and 14 rushing TDs in 10 of 12 games, including four against a possible ACC champion, Duke. Making this even more of a potential shootout is the defenses for both teams being just decent, UNT #72, Tulane #60 in total yards, with the Mean Green being weak against the run, while Tulane is weak against the pass. North Texas gives up more than 24 PPG, and in the AAC title game, those teams giving up 22.9 ppg or more are just **1-5 ATS**. On the road versus .750 or better teams, North Texas is a mere 3-7 ATS, and **The Well-Oiled Machine** cranked out this spicy nugget; underdogs in this title game that allow more than 21 PPG on the season are **0-5 SU and 1-4 ATS** all-time. The hiring of Jon Sumrall has drawn some criticism from Florida Gators fans disappointed that the Lane Train skipped the Gainesville station, but Sumrall is 42-11 SU, 32-17-1 ATS as an FBS head coach with a 30-5 SU and 24-10-1 ATS mark in conference games. Toss in 2-0 ATS as a home dog, and we suspect Sumrall's moving van will have to wait at least one more game.

MARC LAWRENCE'S

2025 COLLEGE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY OF THE YEAR! 11-1 ALL TIME!

2024 Georgia (+3) 22, Texas 19 - WINNER
2023 Alabama (+5.5) 27, Georgia 24 - WINNER!
2022 Kansas State (Pk) 31, TCU 28 - WINNER!
2021 Alabama (+6) 41, Georgia 24 - WINNER!
2020 San Jose St (+6.5) 34, Boise St 20 - WINNER!
2019 Georgia (+7) 10, LSU 37 - LOSER
2018 UAB (+1) 27, Middle Tenn 25 - WINNER!
2017 Georgia (-1.5) 28, Auburn 7 - WINNER!
2016 Va Tech (+11) 35, Clemson 42 - WINNER!
2015 Iowa (+3.5) 13, Michigan St 16 - WINNER!
2014: Ohio St (+4) 59, Wisconsin 0 - WINNER!
2013: Mich St (+5.5) 34, Ohio St 24 - WINNER!

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM
MARC LAWRENCE AND THE
ENTIRE PLAYBOOK STAFF!

MWC CHAMPIONSHIP
Albertsons Stadium - Boise, ID

UPSET GAME OF THE WEEK UPSET

Unlv over BOISE STATE by 6

The Rebels are 0-12 all-time against the Blue Broncos, including losses in the 2023 and 2024 Mountain West title tilts. Boise is in its fourth straight MW title game and, lifetime, is 5-3 SU but 3-5 ATS... expect the Broncos to try to run to win, having rushed on more than 53% of its plays this season, averaging 189.9 per game. The UNLV defense has been spongy against the run this year, ranked 101st at 175.5/gm with a 5.33 per-carry average against. The Rebs overcame a two-game losing streak mid-season to finish 4-0 and are **6-0 ATS** in the second of consecutive road games while stud RB Jet Thomas seems to have bounced back from a bad leg, running for 103 and four TDs in an easy win over Nevada. Boise won eight this year, UNLV got 10 the hard way, and the records show the team with the lower win percentage is 3-7 SU in the MW championship game, including **1-5 outright** against teams batting .800 or better. BSU finished 1-3 ATS in its final four games, and this edition of the Broncos will not be mentioned for the CFP, unlike last year's team, which earned a berth. Grabbing the dice from the croupier is **THE CLINCHER: UNLV Head Coach Dan Mullen is 62-14 lifetime anytime his team has the better record.** How did the Mountain West determine the participants in this game when there was a four-way tie for first? A computer, which means we can break out of storage our "Bring Back the BCS!!!" bumper stickers.

Saturday, December 6

BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP
AT&T Stadium - Arlington, TX

Texas Tech over Brigham Young by 17

No coaching drama here, both TTU's Joey McGuire and BYU's Kalani Sitake signed long-term deals to remain at their schools, so we can focus on football for a change. BYU is another post-season team led by a dual threat QB, Bear Bachmeier has thrown for 2,593 and rushed for 529 with a combined 25 touchdowns. He is also adept at handing the ball off to LJ Martin, who's rushed for 1,229 yards-12th best in the nation. Problem for BYU is they're facing a bear of a defense in Texas Tech, a unit giving up 11.25 PPG and is ranked 6th in total defense. The offense? 4th best and the yardage difference is a comical plus 230.3 yards per game. That puts TTU in an Ultra Lounge with only Indiana, Ohio State and Oregon as teams plus 200 or better. And whatever you do be sure to check out our **INCREDIBLE STAT** of the week on page 3. The numbers are, not surprisingly, promising on both sides... BYU is 7-1 ATS coming off a home win of 21 plus points and **12-2 ATS** against teams .900 or better. The Cougars were thrashed 29-7 by Tech earlier this season and frankly the Red Raiders are breaking land speed records this year. They are **10-1 ATS** as a double-digit conference favorite and **6-0 ATS** when coming off a home shutout win. Double-digit conference title favorites are **4-0 SUATS** when playing a team coming off a pair of SUATS wins and it's by an average of 31 or more points. In true "Columbo" fashion we offer "one more thing"...TTU jumped past Georgia in the CFP poll into the deeply coveted top 4, meaning a Week One bye. Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yormark is taking a page from SEC Czar Greg Sankey and going on a "charm" offensive. Yormark is lobbying for the Cougars to join the Red Raiders in the playoffs and he's going after sainted Notre Dame, pointing out BYU has a better resume including record, and strength of schedule. If this were a blind taste test, Yormark is right. What he must hope for that if BYU loses, the CFP Committee isn't blinded by the glare off of those golden Irish helmets.

(continued on next page)

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

PLAYBOOK EDGE

The final week of the regular season (sans Army-Navy) kicks off this weekend. Before diving into the Conference Championship Game pool, you need to check the depth of the water as each conference has its good and bad trends. Listed below are the best/worst money trends for each conference, and the team(s) who qualify this year. All results are ATS. Play accordingly.

Conference	Money Trend
AAC Qualifying Team	1-7: Favs 4 < pts vs .600 > opp North Texas
ACC Qualifying Team	6-1: RD's 8 < pts w/ doub revenge Duke
Big Ten Qualifying Team	4-13: After score 55 > pts Indiana
Big 12 Qualifying Team	7-1: w/ sing revenge off DD SU win BYU
CUSA Qualifying Team	5-1: w/ doub revenge off SU win Kennesaw State
MAC Qualifying Team	5-1: Favs 3 < pts off SU win Western Michigan
MWC Qualifying Team	9-2: Favs 6 < pts off ATS loss Boise State
SEC Qualifying Team	9-1: Favs off BB ATS losses vs .500 > opp Georgia
SBC Qualifying Team	9-1: Dogs off SU dog win Troy State

COMMON OPPONENTS STATS

When it comes to college football championship games, a good starting point is analyzing the common opponents each team faced this season and how they fared in those games. With that, here are the common opponent records, sans each other.

Friday, December 6

	SU	ATS	ITS	NET STATS / GAME
CUSA				
KENNESAW ST	4-0	4-0	2-2	+139
JACKSONVILLE ST	3-1	2-2	3-1	+32

SUN BELT

TROY	3-1	3-1	0-4	-127
JAMES MADISON	4-0	2-2	4-0	+183

MWC

NORTH TEXAS	5-0	5-0	4-1	+187
TULANE	4-1	1-4	3-2	+97

MWC

UNLV	4-1	2-3	2-3	+69
BOISE St	5-0	3-1-1	5-0	+124

Saturday, December 6

	SU	ATS	ITS	NET STATS / GAME
BIG-12				
BYU	3-0	2-1	2-1	+07
TEXAS TECH	3-0	3-0	3-0	+294

MAC

MIAMI OH	3-2	3-2	2-3	+02
W MICHIGAN	5-0	4-0-1	4-1	+79

SEC

GEORGIA	2-0	1-1	2-0	+13
ALABAMA	2-0	2-0	0-2	-84

ACC

DUKE	4-0	3-0-1	2-2	-01
VIRGINIA	2-2	1-3	3-1	+80

BIG TEN

INDIANA	5-0	3-2	4-1	+276
OHIO ST	5-0	4-1	4-1	+223

MAC CHAMPIONSHIP
Ford Field - Detroit, MI

Miami-Ohio over Western Michigan by 3

You have to go back to the Broncos' boat rowing days under PJ Fleck to find the last time Western was in the MAC title game, 2016, to be exact, with the last winning season back in 2021, long after Fleck fled to Minnesota. The approach during the Brown Broncos' recent win streak has been basic and bruising. In the last three games, WMU has attempted fewer than 15 passes per game and instead ground out victories thanks to the running of QB Broc Lowry plus RBs Jalen Buckley and Devin Miles. Miami didn't do much with its pass attack during the season until the final two games, when redshirt freshman QB Thomas Gotkowski took over. The offense jelled with 37 and 45 points in the last two games while Gotkowski threw four TD passes and ran for another. He took over after Dequan Finn quit the team last month to focus on a potential NFL career. (Don't expect the Finn draft party to be held on the Miami campus.) WMU opened as a slight favorite, but the Database points out MAC underdogs are 16-7-3 ATS in the conference title game, including 8-2-1 ATS if they gave up fewer than 21 points in their last outing. The RedHawks are also 9-2 ATS coming off a home game versus an opponent coming off a road game, and don't forget Miami is 4-2 SUATS in their last six MAC title game shows. Toledo certainly hasn't forgotten last year, when the Rockets were favored only to have Miami steal the show 23-14, making M-OH **3-0 ATS** when the underdog. WMU is a less impressive 3-12 ATS after consecutive wins and 3-10 ATS with double revenge, having lost the last two to Miami. It should be a tight game, but the Broncos appear to be up the Detroit River without a paddle.

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP

Mercedes-Benz Stadium - Atlanta, GA

Georgia over Alabama by 6

Travel back in time if you will to last Sunday, during a phone call with Jaybird The Bulldog, our SEC Scout, immediately after this game opened showing Georgia as a 1.5-point favorite. "I got to tell you... there is

NO WAY Georgia is going to lose this game to Alabama! My advice to you would be to get down right now on the Bulldogs as a money line play... the price is only going to go UP." Fast forward to now, where the addition of Texas and Oklahoma to the SEC has done little to shake up the status quo when it comes to reaching this weekend. Texas, Oklahoma, Vanderbilt, and Mississippi have all hovered around the heavens of God's conference, but here we are with what seems to be the 1,000th SEC title game, pitting Georgia (now -2.5-point chalk) against Alabama. Saturday will be the seventh meeting between these teams for either conference or national title supremacy since 2012. The Bulldogs were in the title game last year, and teams making a return visit are 12-5 SUATS if they allow less than 18.3 PPG. UGA has lost its previous three meetings with The Tide, but in triple conference revenge, the Dawgs are **5-0 ATS** while Bama is the polar opposite at 0-5 ATS. Alabama is 11-2 ATS if both teams were favored in their last game and did narrowly beat Georgia this season, 24-21, between the Hedges. The Tide rolls in with a 6-0 ATS mark as a conference underdog, but...Danger Will Robinson! The **MIDWEEK ALERT** is waving its arms to point out Bama was a lame 3-4 ITS (In the Stats) over the last seven games of the season. The stats show Bama throws it better, while Georgia is better on the ground, and the difference in points allowed is .17 per game, while points scored is 1.0, slightly favoring Alabama. It's an even matchup, so we head to the sidelines for this: Georgia coach Kirby Smart is 39-20 ATS when not favored by 13 or more points, is 12-6 ATS when seeking revenge, and that includes **7-2 SUATS** versus sub .900 opponents. Smart has the chance to perhaps knock Bama completely out of a playoff spot, too, and should a three-loss Alabama team get in...well, as we wrote earlier, BRING BACK THE BCS!

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

Bank of America Stadium - Charlotte, NC

Virginia over Duke by 7

Yep, we're really doing this. Maybe the ACC should have grabbed the Mountain West's computer to figure out its tiebreaker because outside of Durham, NC, hell, maybe inside Durham too, the conference's tiebreaker format is being unfavorably compared to

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NOTE: Due to the larger CFB Playoff and Bowl Game pairings, the 2025 Playbook College Bowl Guide will be presented in two separate issues and delivered as two separate publication products. The first issue will be available Thursday 12/11 and covers games thru 12/24. The second issue will be available on Tuesday, 12/23, and cover games thru the Championship game. Cost for the two issue combo is \$29.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF BRACKET BASED ON THE CFB PLAYOFF RANKINGS

WEEK 15 | 12-TEAM CFB BRACKET
BASED ON CURRENT RANKINGS

FIRST ROUND

12 CONFERENCE CHAMP #5	5 O OREGON
9 A ALABAMA	8 OU OKLAHOMA
11 CONFERENCE CHAMP #4	6 OM OLE MISS
10 ND NOTRE DAME	7 ATM TEXAS A&M

QUARTERFINALS

4 T TEXAS TECH	1 OSU OHIO STATE
3 G GEORGIA	2 Ψ INDIANA

SEMIFINALS

--	--

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

--



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF
TOP 25

CURRENT EDITION OF CFB PLAYOFF RANKINGS

1. Ohio State (12-0) *	14. Vanderbilt (10-2)
2. Indiana (12-0) *	15. Utah (10-2)
3. Georgia (11-1) *	16. USC (9-3)
4. Texas Tech (11-1) *	17. Virginia (10-2)
5. Oregon (11-1)~	18. Arizona (9-3)
6. Ole Miss (11-1) ~	19. Michigan (9-3)
7. Texas A&M (11-1) ~	20. Tulane (10-2) ^
8. Oklahoma (10-2) ~	21. Houston (9-3)
9. Alabama (10-2)	22. Ga Tech (9-3)
10. Notre Dame (10-2)	23. Iowa (8-4)
11. BYU (11-1)	24. N Texas (11-1)
12. Miami (FL) (10-2)	25. J Madison (11-1)
13. Texas (9-3)	

* First-round bye | ~ First round host
^ Highest-ranked Group of Five team

CFB Playoff Conference Call – **SEC (7):** Nos. 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 / **Big Ten (6):** Nos. 1, 2, 5, 16, 19, 23 / **Big 12 (5):** Nos. 4, 11, 15, 18, 21 / **ACC (3):** Nos. 12, 17, 22 / **American (2):** No. 20, 24 / **Independent (1):** No. 10 / **Sun Belt (1):** No. 25.

“The Price is Right” Plinko game. Duke is 10-2 when coming off a home game. 7-1 ATS as a conference dog of seven or fewer points, but that’s where the fun stops. The Blue Devils are **1-9 ATS** after scoring 45 or more points, while UVA is 9-2 ATS in this series with Duke. Blue Devils boss Manny Diaz made his reputation as a defensive coach. Still, his 111th-ranked unit pales in comparison to the Cavaliers’ 20th-ranked bunch, which is giving up an average of 9 points per game more than Virginia. The Wahoos are also better with the ball, hitting on 49% of third down conversions compared to 39.6% for Duke. The **MIDWEEK ALERT** is also a fan of the Cavs’ defense, pointing out Virginia held each of its last four opponents to season-low yardage. You can see this coming from a few hundred miles away, one of those four teams was Duke, who “amassed” 255 yards during UVA’s 34-17 win just weeks ago. A Virginia win and they will make the CFP as the fourth-highest-ranked conference champion and a likely 12th seed. A Duke upset opens the door for perhaps James Madison to sneak in. You know who’s not sneaking in? Duke.

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BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP Lucas Oil Stadium - Indianapolis, IN TOP BEST BET

Indiana over Ohio State by 3

From the ridiculous to the sublime. This #1 vs. #2 matchup carries not just conference pride but also CFP seeding. Where will the loser wind up? Will a loss shove the loser out of the Top 4 and the precious first-round bye? Historically, the underdog in undefeated conference championship games has an edge, going 9-4-1 ATS. Who is 3-0 ATS the last three years vs. undefeated Big Ten teams? Indiana and the Hoosiers are also 4-0 ATS after allowing three or fewer points last game. IU has limited nine opponents to season-low points this year (**Thank you, MIDWEEK ALERT!**) and has received Heisman-worthy quarterbacking from Fernando Mendoza, whom we should point out again played his HS ball in Miami... great recruiting by UM, UF, FSU, and USF to gag on that one. Ohio State cultists will jump in to point out their man Justin Sayin’ should get an invite to the big show in a New York Minute, and does the winner of this game lock out Vanderbilt’s Diego Pavia for the trophy? **Guess what other team has held nine opponents to season-low points? It’s not Vanderbilt but Ohio State.** The Buckeyes have the country’s number one defense, giving up 7.75 PPG, with IU on their tail at 10.92. Ohio State is giving up 203 YPG, and IU is fourth at 251.8. The Well-Oiled Machine wasn’t going to be left out of this one, pointing out a strange but true stat: Teams in conference championship games that allowed ten or fewer points in each of their three prior games are 2-5 SU and 1-6 ATS... here’s looking at you, Brutus Buckeye. One other handcuff against the scarlet and gray is this odd but true stat: defending national champions are 3-3 SU and 1-5 ATS when facing a team with a .916 or better record in a conference title game. The Bucks are 12-2 ATS in their last 14 conference games, 13-2 ATS coming off a road win, and are 9-1 ATS this season, while the HoosierDaddies are 6-5 ATS. Ohio State is **10-4-1 ATS** off a B1G win of four or more, and this was a BIG win, ending the four-year torture that was the Michigan series. This matchup is the highlight of the sports weekend. In this football version of Ali-Frazier, Leonard-Duran, Wilder-Fury, and Mike Tyson versus himself, we had to call in the judges with **THE CLINCHER: Head over to Page 2 to see Marc’s COLLISION COURSE Awesome Angle.**

PRO FOOTBALL

Thursday, December 4

4★ **BEST BET**

DETROIT over Dallas by 14

Consider this: a month ago, the line on this game would have been Lions -9. Since their Bye weeks, Detroit has gone 2-3 SU and 1-4 ATS, while Dallas is on a **3-0 SUATS** winning streak heading into this contest. That, my friend, shows how fickle NFL lines are to adjustments. It's a league that reacts to recent performance, and the Cowboys have certainly done more than the Lions. It's time we give them their due. Dallas has beaten both of last year's Super Bowl teams, the Eagles and Chiefs, within five days. Clearly, the Cowboys are playing their best football of the season and remain in the NFC playoff picture (currently the No. 9 seed). Our concern for Dallas tonight, though, is that the Lions are **3-0 SUATS** at home by an average win margin of more than 15 PPG when coming off consecutive home games against foes coming off an upset win as a dog. They are also 5-1 SU and **6-0 ATS** facing sub-.666 opponents when coming off a game against Green Bay. The Lions crushed Dallas 47-9 as 3.5-point road favorites last year, and they're laying the same number here after a humiliating loss. You know what to do. And with that, here's **THE CLINCHER: See this week's TRIVIA TEASER on page 2.**

Sunday, December 7

Washington over MINNESOTA by 1

The two most significant question marks surrounding this contest are the health of Commanders' QB Jayden Daniels (elbow) and Vikings QB JJ McCarthy (concussion). The Commanders need Daniels back behind center like a fat guy needs donut forgiveness. And while McCarthy is expected back today, it's apparent the biggest guffaw in the NFL offseason last year was letting QB Sam Darnold leave for Seattle. McCarthy appears to have been a massive mistake, one that is potentially franchise-changing – although it's hard to see the entire horizon at this stage. The reality is the Vikings have no choice but to plug McCarthy back into the starting lineup once he clears concussion protocol. Rookie backup Max Brosmer was absolutely not ready to play in an NFL game. From the four sacks to the four interceptions, including an atrocious no-look hook shot into the air while being sacked, which led to an 85-yard touchdown for Seattle, Brosmer looked overwhelmed. At the very least, McCarthy was a roller coaster with a few highs between a lot of lows. Brosmer's implosion merely underscores that the Vikings are going to have to go through the wood chipper the rest of the season and see if McCarthy can show any semblance of progress. Last week's 26-0 loss at Seattle was so bad that it marked only the third time that Minny has been blanked since 1990. Meanwhile, Washington opted to go for two in overtime against the Broncos and failed. It was the second consecutive OT loss in as many games for Dan Quinn's troops, as the 3-9 Commanders' misery continues. With Thor just **1-8 ATS** at home against .333 or fewer foes, we're forced to take it – only if we have to.

Miami over NY JETS by 6

Don't look now, but the Dolphins, now 5-7, matched their longest win streak of the past three seasons. Nevertheless, Miami QB Tua Tagovailoa has tossed 14 INTs this season, tied for the most in the league with the Raiders' QB Geno Smith. Jets QB2 Tyrod Taylor became the sixth quarterback since 2000 to win a game for six different organizations, joining a list that includes Ryan Fitzpatrick, Matt Cassel, Case Keenum, Josh McCown, and Joe Flacco. Only Flacco has a chance to enter the NFL HOF. Given Miami's **9-1 ATS** mark in games when playing with single revenge, and its 8-2 ATS record in its last ten division road games, we can only look one way here today. The Jets' **0-4 ATS** division home dog log, and a **2-10 ATS** ledger when coming off a home win seconds that emotion.

Tennessee over CLEVELAND by 3

Myles Garrett continued his exceptional performance last week against San Francisco: He now has 14 sacks in his last five games and needs just four more to tie the NFL's single-season record. However, the Browns' offensive and defensive lines are severely battered. Starting defensive tackle Maliek Collins, enjoying his best season with 6.5 sacks, was carted off at the start of the second half. Cleveland lost another player along the line against the 49ers. Minutes after starting right tackle Jack Conklin was ruled out with a concussion, Browns' starting defensive end Isaiah McGuire left the game with a leg injury. The Browns desperately need Collins back; his leadership is priceless. They are favored, a role in which they are 1-6 ATS over the past two seasons. In other words, this is one of the best chances the Titans will have to win a game this season. Enter the Titans, the league's only winless team 'In The Stats' (0-12 ITS). It's so bad that rookie QB Cam Ward needed 38 throws to gain just 141 yards through the air against Jacksonville. Yuck. As Nate Davis of USA Today put it, "Woody Hayes would love the Tennessee Titans' passing game – 3.7 yards and a cloud of dust." The well-oiled machine also notes that NFL regular-season road underdogs coming off three straight home losses are a strong long-term bet, with an 80-58-2 ATS record since 1980. Grab your clothespin and get ready to celebrate—the Titans are set to win a game, finally!

3★ **BEST BET**

Pittsburgh over BALTIMORE by 4

Is it just us, or do these Steelers look tired, old, and out of answers? After their puzzling no-show loss at home against Buffalo last week, QB Aaron Rodgers said, "I believe in the coaching staff, I believe in Mike Tomlin, that's why I came here. Players need to take accountability, myself included, and I will. I will play better." With no team in the AFC North owning a winning record, it's time to step up today, Aaron. The division is there for the taking. The 6-6 Ravens have clawed their way back after a disastrous 1-5 start. If 6-6 Pittsburgh has another gear; it's time to find it. Otherwise, another hot start will be wasted by season's end. And if Mike Tomlin has a say, it happens today. That's because his teams are 15-5 ATS in his career when coming off a loss of 17-plus points, as well as **12-2 ATS** the last 14 games when coming off a double-digit ATS loss. He is also 25-11 outright in games when seeking double revenge—exact, including 8-3 SU and 8-2-1 ATS in division contests. Not to mention 15-6 ATS as a division dog of 4 or more points with revenge against .500 or greater foes. On the flip side, the up-and-down Ravens bring a **1-6 ATS** mark at home against foes with a double-revenge chip on their shoulder. And the **MIDWEEK ALERT** shares this nugget: Aside from both teams allowing more points than they've scored this season – a trait of every team in the AFC North - Baltimore is 3-9 ITS (In The Stats) this season, losing the stats overall by -32 net yards per game. After scoring 40 and 41 points in their first two games of the season, the Black Birds are averaging a mere 20.8 points per contest since. Finally, we wrap it all up with **THE CLINCHER: QB Aaron Rodgers is 21-7 SU and 22-6 ATS in division games throughout his NFL career when his team is coming off a SUATS loss, including 9-2 SU and 11-0 ATS from game ten onward.**

Seattle over ATLANTA by 11

This is simply a case of two teams traveling different paths. Seattle's elite defense (3rd-fewest points allowed at 18.1 PPG) faces an Atlanta offense that's leaky at home, with 27-plus points allowed in three of their last four games. A significant concern, though, is that this is the Seahawks' third road game in their last four contests, a stat that may challenge the road team's success in this series; they have an overall 14-5-1 ATS record since 1985. Seattle's impressive **10-2 ATS** record in games when coming off a win against an opponent coming off a loss stands out. So does its NFL-best +113 net points this season. A **5-1 ATS** record in domes, coupled with the Hawks' **0-8-2 ATS** mark as a non-division home dog of 4-plus points, points us to the best road team (**5-1 SUATS** away this season) in the league.

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

Indianapolis over JACKSONVILLE by 12

For the first time since their season-opening win over Carolina, Jacksonville is alone in first place in the AFC South. Thanks to a recent 3-0 SUATS-ITS (In The Stats) winning run, they've scratched and clawed their way back atop the division as the 8-4 Jags hold the current tie breaker over the shoeless Colts. And for the first time this season, Indianapolis failed to score 20 points in its last game. Perhaps the NFL injury that is not front and center is 'Indiana Jones' fractured fibula in his lower leg. It has taken his legs away in support of Jonathan Taylor and the Colts' running game, and it was apparent in last week's 20-16 loss to the Texans when Indy was held to less than 90 rushing yards for the third time this season (all Indianapolis losses). However, truth be told, Indiana Jones' 101.3 Passer Rating blows Jags' QB Trevor Lawrence's 81.6 Passer Rating away and Jones ranks No. 9 overall and Lawrence No. 34. That bodes well for the Colts' current **5-0 ATS** mark in its last five division road games. And speaking of the division road, Jacksonville's **2-13 ATS** record when coming off the division road ties neatly into Indy's 8-2 ATS ledger coming off a SUATS favorite loss when taking on a foe coming off a win as a favorite. Finally, we put a bow on this beauty with **THE CLINCHER: Jags' QB Trevor Lawrence is 1-5 SUATS in his NFL career against .600 or greater foes coming off consecutive losses, including 0-5 SUATS when not favored by three or more points.**

GREEN BAY over Chicago by 1

Look who's at the head of the dinner table and now the No. 1 overall seed in this NFL Playoff Picture: a slew of Bears. Ben Johnson's team is one of six that currently sit in first place (or share it) but didn't win their divisions in 2024, including the Patriots, Colts, Jags, Broncos, and Seahawks. The word in the Windy City is they can't stop winning. They'll take to the NFC North road today knowing they are 4-0 SU and ATS coming off a road underdog win, as well as **6-0-1 ATS** as division road dogs of more than 4 points against opponents coming off a road win of seven or more points. With Johnson **7-0 SU and ATS** this season against opponents with a win percentage of .333 or higher, and Packers' coach Matt LaFleur 2-5-1 ATS in division games when on a 2-0 SUATS winning streak, you know which side of the field we'll be rooting for today. The side that has averaged 195 rushing yards over the last five games!

TAMPA BAY over New Orleans by 1

The Buccaneers have five games remaining, four against the NFC South. While they are still clinging to the division lead, they are sweating heavily, giving new meaning to phrases like "Black Friday" and "leaking oil," as they have been outgained in each of their last nine games. Meanwhile, QB Baker Mayfield shrugged off his left shoulder sprain to throw a touchdown to his left tackle, Tristan Wirfs,



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and running back Bucky Irving returned with a touchdown of his own. With some more key players returning — including wideout Mike Evans sooner rather than later — the Bucs might be getting healthy just in time. However, moving forward, they'll need to start outgaining opponents again. Meanwhile, last-place division rival New Orleans is playing its best football of the season, winning two of its last three games and allowing just 248 yards per game during that span. With the visiting team an alarming **8-0 ATS** in this series, and the Saints **6-1 ATS** when seeking triple revenge — besides appearing in Marc's **HELLO AGAIN Betcha Didn't Know** article on page 2 — we have no problem fading this Tampa Bay oil tanker in this near-shocker.

Denver over LAS VEGAS by 10

The Denver Broncos (10-2) head to Allegiant Stadium riding a scorching nine-game winning streak, firmly in the hunt for the AFC's No. 1 seed alongside the New England Patriots (11-1). Meanwhile, the Las Vegas Raiders (2-10) are mired in a six-game skid, officially eliminated from playoff contention, and desperate to salvage some pride in this heated AFC West rivalry. The Raiders are reeling, with three straight losses by 14+ points, including a 31-14 blowout at the Chargers. Their offense is anemic (14.9 points per game), plagued by turnovers and inefficiency. QB Geno Smith has struggled, and rookie RB Ashton Jeanty's 60-yard, one-TD effort in Week 10 feels like a distant memory. Denver's 10-7 win in November was a penalty-filled slog (more flags than first downs for both teams), highlighting the rivalry's physical, low-scoring nature. To be honest, we looked into the Raiders' triple-revenge motive but backed off like a sugar daddy who learned she was only 17, after discovering that Las Vegas is **0-7 ATS** at home with triple revenge-exact. With the Bucking Horses **6-0 ATS** in Game Thirteen, and Vegas **0-5-1 ATS** in Game Thirteen, it's Denver or bust.

LA Rams over ARIZONA by 4

Woe to the Cardinals. Seven of nine losses this season have been by one score. They are just 5-19 outright against winning teams under head coach Jonathan Gannon, and 3-13 in division games with him. It's hard to paint a rosy picture when roses don't grow in the desert. However, a petals bloom when they dress up as home underdogs, as they are **6-1 ATS** taking more than four points under Gannon. Additionally, the Rams are only **1-9 ATS** coming off a SUATS loss when facing opponents coming off an outright loss but an ATS win. It's worth noting that QB Matthew Stafford's three giveaways in last week's 31-28 loss to Carolina were his first 3+ giveaways in a regular-season game in over 14 months. In fact, he has turned the ball over 3+ times only TWO times in the last three-plus seasons. Sheesh. Yes, (continued on next page)

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the Rams could be rambunctious today, but with a playoff revenge game against the Lions next, and a 1-4 ATS record when coming off a SUATS before facing Detroit, we'll take the points with the division's angry underdog.

BUFFALO over Cincinnati by 3

Question: What was more impressive: the Bengals' spark with Joe Burrow or a Cincinnati defense that forced five turnovers by the Ravens? Yes, it was nice seeing Burrow back behind center for Cincinnati, but a Joe Flacco-led offense was not Cincinnati's problem. Although just 1-5 behind Joe Flacco since he took over for QB2 Nate Browning, the striped cats had averaged 29 PPG behind him. The fact of the matter is, Burrow is 48-28 ATS outright when starting, including 30-13 ATS on the road, and **25-10 ATS** against opponents coming off a win. So where does that leave the Bengals, currently the No. 12 seed in the AFC Playoff Picture? Flipping the script, the Bills bounced back and crushed the struggling Steelers to maintain Buffalo's No. 7 seed in the AFC chase, giving them a leg up on the 7-5 Texans. We can't overlook Cincy's **15-2 ATS** record when coming off an outright road win, or its **14-3 ATS** record for non-division road underdogs of 4 or more points, or its **5-1 ATS** mark in games when coming off an outright win as an underdog. Buffy's 1-3-1 ATS record against opponents in this role (those coming off an underdog win) confirms it. Back these cats as a dog.

KANSAS CITY over Houston by 7

If there is one thing we've learned over the years, it's that you don't mess with Superman's cape, and you don't mess around with Andy. Not when his team has a .500 or worse record for the season. That's because he is 80-49 SU and 80-48-1 ATS in these games since taking over the Eagles in 1999. So, what does this tell us? It tells us he is on the "right side" of the game in this role. So, if your handicap points to the other side of the contest and you decide to go there, be advised – the Chiefs are not your kryptonite; the team they are playing is. Sure, we can understand your infatuation with the league's No. 1-ranked defense dressing up as an underdog for the third week in a

row (2-0 ATS in the previous two games). And the Texans' eagerness to avenge a playoff loss to the Chiefs in last year's postseason. And we would be too if it wasn't a 6-6 Kansas City squad you're choosing to face head-on today. Remember, as the **MIDWEEK ALERT** informs us, the Chiefs are one of only five NFL teams to rank in the Top 10 both offensively and defensively this season. The Texans are not one of them. Instead, Houie's 1-6-1 ATS record in Game Thirteens, its 0-3 ATS mark in games against opponents coming off a Thursday, and its 4-10-1 ATS record in games after facing the Colts make a stronger case. Look for the hungry host in this series to improve to 4-0 ATS this evening.

Monday, December 8

Philadelphia over LA CHARGERS by 1

Star QB Justin Herbert is questionable with an injury to his left (non-throwing) hand after undergoing surgery for a fractured metacarpal in that hand, which he injured during the Chargers' Week 13 win over the Las Vegas Raiders. Herbert was hurt on a scramble in the first quarter but returned with a protective glove and cast, completing 15 of 20 passes for 151 yards, 2 TDs, and 1 INT in the 31-14 victory. As a result, he is day-to-day, with his status for Week 14 to be finalized later in the week – likely by Saturday. He skipped Wednesday's practice, per head coach Jim Harbaugh, but the team is preparing as if he'll start. If Herbert sits, backup QB Trey Lance is likely to start, with the Chargers (8-4, No. 5 AFC seed) facing a tough Eagles defense. FYI: Should Lance be behind center to start the game, he is 3-0 ATS at home (0-2 ATS away) in his NFL career starts. The Bolts are one of the five aforementioned teams to rank in the Top 10 offensively and defensively. The Eagles rank No. 24 on offense and No. 25 on defense. That's how far they have fallen this season. However, Philly brings a 9-1 ATS record into this game as either a non-division favorite or an underdog of 3 points or fewer. The Chargers counter at 5-1 ATS in Week 13 but 1-5 ATS in the last six Monday Night home games. We'll need more of Herbert's status before making a decision tonight.

Time	#	Teams	Score	Open	Draft Kings	Fanduel	BetMGM	Caesars	Circa	Pinnacle
* NFL WEEK 9 (BYE: PIT, SF) - Sunday, November 3rd										
11/03	465	Indianapolis		46	47o-12	46½o-15	47	47	52½u-220A	47o-10
5:20p	466	Minnesota		-6½-110	-5½-110	-5½-110	-5½-110	-5½-110	-14½+315A	-5-111
11/03	467	Washington	21	-3-110	-10½-130	-10½-130	-10½-130A	-10½-130	-4-110	-11-116
10:00a	468	N.Y. Giants	10	44	45½u-25	45½u-22	45½u-15	45½u-15	44	45o-12
11/03	469	Chicago		-1½-110	44½	44½	44½	44½	44½	44½o-10
1:05p	470	Arizona		47	-1½-110	-1½-110	-1½-110	-1½-110	-1½-110	-2+103
11/03	471	L.A. Rams		48½	-1½-112	-1½-110	-1½-110	-1½-115	-1-110	-1-104
1:25p	472	Seattle		-3-105	48o-12	48½u-15	48½	48½	48½	48u-06
11/03	473	Detroit		50½	-2½-120	-2½-110	-2½-110	-2½-110	-2½-112	-2½-107
1:25p	474	Green Bay		pk-110	47½o-12	47½o-15	48	48o-15	48	48u-06
11/03	475	Jacksonville		47½	46	46½u-15	46	46	46	45½u-14
1:05p	476	Philadelphia		-6½-110	-7½-108	-7½+100	-7½-105	-7-115	-7-120	-7½-100
* NBA - Sunday, November 3rd										
11/03	539	Detroit		219	219u-12	219u-12	218½o-15	219½	219	219u-06
12:40p	540	Brooklyn		-3-115	-3-110	-3-108	-2½-115	-3-110	-2½-115	-3-104
11/03	541	Atlanta		227½	230½	230½	230½	230½	230	230½o-07
4:10p	542	New Orleans		-4½-110	-4-108	-3½-114	-3½-115	-3½-110	-3½-110	-4-106
11/03	543	Orlando		220	220o-12	220	220½	220	220½	220o-07
4:40p	544	Dallas		-7-110	-6½-112	-6½-112	-6½-110	-6½-115	-6½-110	-6½-108
* NHL - Sunday, November 3rd										
11/03	49	NY Islanders	2	End	6u-15	7½u-75	7½u-210	7½u-40	7½u-90	7½u-65
10:07a	50	NY Rangers	3	2nd P	-190/+160	-600/+390	-620/+400	-500/+350	-600/+400	-482/+376
11/03	51	Tampa Bay		6o-15	6½o-12	6½o-15	6½o-15	6½o-20	6½o-15	6½o-10
12:07p	52	Winnipeg		-130/+110	-148/+124	-152/+126	-145/+120	-155/+130	-138/+126	-144/+130
11/03	53	Washington		6o-20	6o-15	6½u-38	6o-15	6o-25	6o-15	6o-12
2:07p	54	Carolina		-210/+175	-270/+220	-285/+230	-275/+225	-285/+228	-268/+238	-260/+228
11/03	55	Seattle		6½u-20	6u-20	5½o-32A	6u-15	6u-20	5½o-25	6u-15
2:07p	56	Boston		-180/+150	-180/+150	-178/+146A	-175/+145	-180/+152	-171/+155	-168/+151

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THE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP: O/U STYLE

AN 'OVER / UNDER' REPORT ON THIS WEEK'S NFL CARD BY VICTOR KING

All games played on this week's NFL schedule are listed below. As always, the number listed 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 **2025 Playbook 'TOTALS' TIPSHEET** by Victor King – the definitive weekly OU newsletter. A single issue is only \$11.00. Rest-of-Season subscription is \$34.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2025 "Totals Train"! ***This week's GAME 14 Playbook O/U TREND play: Rams @ Cardinals 'OVER the TOTAL'**

2025 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK FOURTEEN

GAME MATCHUPS	KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
Dallas (Open: 54.5) DETROIT	9-2 OU L11 vs Det (54.9)... 8-1 OU bef Min... but 0-4 OU Thursday RG... 1-4 OU Game 13... 1-3 OU away vs NFC North 5-0-1 OU aft GB... 5-1 OU Thursday non-div HG... 3-1 OU Game 13... 3-1 OU L4 vs NFC East.. 4-2 OU bef Rams
Washington (43.5) MINNESOTA	3-0 OU in 1st of BB RG... 4-1-1 OU bef div RG... but 0-3 OU aft Den... 2-8 OU bef NYG... 2-4 OU Game 13 8-2 OU bef Dal... 6-2 OU L8 vs Wash... 3-1 OU Game 13... 3-1 OU L4 vs NFC East... but 2-10 OU vs .333 < opp
Miami (41.5) NY JETS	7-1 OU bef Monday gm... 5-1 OU L6 div RG... 4-1 OU L5 vs NYJ (47.0)... 4-2 OU aft non-conf HG... but 3-6 OU bef Pitt 5-1 OU aft non-conf HG... 8-2 OU w/ sing revenge... 1-5 OU off home dog win... 2-5 OU as div HD's... 2-4 OU Game 13
Tennessee (34.5) CLEVELAND	7-2 OU L9 vs Clev (46.3)... 3-1 OU aft div HG... but 0-6 OU vs .333 < opp... 1-6 OU L7 vs AFC North... 1-5 OU off 3 straight HG 4-1 OU vs .333 < opp... 4-1 OU L5 vs AFC South... 4-2 OU Gm 13... but 0-3 OU aft non-conf HG... 1-4 OU non-div HF's 3 > pts
Pittsburgh (47.5) BALTIMORE	4-0 OU L4 div RG... but 0-3 OU bef Mla... 1-9 OU vs opp off Thur gm... 2-14 OU bef Monday HG... 1-3 OU aft score 7 < pts 5-0 OU 3rd straight HG... 7-1 OU off home fav loss... but 1-8 OU L9 vs Pit (33.2)... 1-5 OU aft Cinc... 2-5 OU aft score 14 < pts
Seattle (43.5) ATLANTA	5-0 OU as RF's 4 > pts... 4-0 OU bef Indy... 3-0 OU aft allow < 7 pts... 4-1 OU L5 vs NFC South... 3-1 OU Game 13 3-1 OU Game 13... 3-1 OU aft Jets... 4-2 OU vs .700 > opp... 4-2 OU L6 vs Sea (53.8)... but 1-4 OU off road fav loss
Indianapolis (48.5) JACKSONVILLE	5-0 OU L5 vs Jac (58.0)... 5-1 OU Game 13... 5-2 OU L7 div RG... but 0-5 OU aft Hou... 1-3 OU off home fav loss 5-1 OU aft Tenn... 5-1 OU off SU win 21 > pts... 7-3 OU 2nd of BB div gms... 7-3 OU Game 13... but 0-3 OU L3 div HG
Chicago (46.5) GREEN BAY	4-1 OU aft Weekday gm... 3-1 OU Game 13... 5-2 OU aft Phil... but 1-3 OU vs opp off Thur game... 2-5 OU L7 div RG 4-0 OU Game 13... 5-1 OU off road dog win... but 1-6 OU aft Thur RG... 1-4 OU aft Det... 1-3 OU div HF's 3 > pts
New Orleans (42.5) TAMPA BAY	3-1 OU L4 div RG... but 0-4 OU Game 13... 0-4 OU w/ trip revenge... 1-7 OU bef Caro... 2-9 OU in 2nd of BB RG 7-0 OU aft Arz... 7-1 OU bef Atl... 4-1 OU L5 div HG... 3-1 OU Game 13... but 1-6 OU vs .250 < op... 2-5 OU as favs 7 > pts
Denver (39.5) LAS VEGAS	5-1 OU Game 13... 5-1 OU vs trip revenge... 3-1 OU L4 vs LV... but 0-3 OU TY vs .300 < opp... 1-8 OU L9 as div RF's 6-1 OU L7 div HG... 5-1 OU aft div RG... but 0-4 OU L4 vs .700 > opp... 3-10 OU 2nd of BB div gms... 3-8 OU aft LAC
La Rams (47.5) ARIZONA	4-1 OU L5 away vs Arz (50.6)... 3-1 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 3-1 OU off SU fav loss... 3-1 OU Game 13... 3-1 OU bef Det 3-0 OU as dogs 6 > pts TY... 9-1 OU w/ sing revenge... 8-1-1 OU vs .750 > opp... 4-1 OU L5 div HG... 4-1 OU bef non-conf HG
Cincinnati (53.5) BUFFALO	2-0 OU aft Thur gm... 3-1 OU aft div RG... 5-2 OU bef Mia... 7-3 OU aft Balt... but 0-4 OU L4 vs Buf (36.0)... 1-4 OU Game 13 4-0 OU bef NEng... 58.5 ppg home TY... 7-2 OU aft Pit... 7-3 OU vs opp off Thur gm... but 2-11 OU L13 vs AFC North
Houston (42.5) KANSAS CITY	3-1 OU Game 13... 7-3 OU vs AFC West... but 0-4 OU aft div RG... 2-9 OU vs opp off road fav loss... 1-3 OU off road dog win 5-0 OU L5 vs Hou (57.0)... but 0-5 OU off SU fav loss... 0-4 OU aft Dal... 1-3 OU aft Thursday gm... 2-5 OU aft non-conf RG
Philadelphia (43.5) LA CHARGERS	4-0 OU L4 vs LAC (54.5)... but 1-6 OU Mondays L3Y... 1-5 OU off home fav loss... 1-6 OU aft Chic... 1-4 OU L5 non-conf RG 4-0 OU in 2nd of BB HG... but 0-6 OU bef KC... 0-3 OU Game 13... 1-7 OU on Mondays... 2-5 OU bef div RG
Carolina	Bye Week
New England	Bye Week
Ny Giants	Bye Week
San Francisco	Bye Week

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KENNY WHITE'S 2025 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

Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF
NCAA														
95	Air Force	Mountain West	95.5	4.5	45	Kansas	Big 12	109	4.5	62	Rutgers	Big Ten	104.5	4.5
125	Akron	Mid-American	88.5	2	43	Kansas St	Big 12	110	5.5	135	Sam Houston St	Conference USA	81	3.5
9	Alabama	Southeastern	120	6	95	Kennesaw St	Conference USA	95.5	3.5	65	San Diego St	Mountain West	104	3.5
120	Appalachian St	Sun Belt	91	4.5	130	Kent St	Mid-American	85.5	4	112	San Jose St	Mountain West	92.5	4.5
39	Arizona	Big-12	111	5	47	Kentucky	Southeastern	108.5	4	19	SMU	Atlantic Coast	116	4.5
36	Arizona St	Big-12	111.5	3.5	94	Liberty	Conference USA	96	4	105	South Alabama	Sun Belt	93.5	3
32	Arkansas	Southeastern	112.5	4.5	115	Louisiana	Sun Belt	92	3.5	32	South Carolina	Southeastern	112.5	5.5
101	Arkansas St	Sun Belt	94.5	3.5	103	Louisiana Tech	Conference USA	94	4.5	97	Southern Miss	Sun Belt	95	4
89	Army	American Athletic	97.5	3.5	23	Louisville	Atlantic Coast	114	5.5	80	Stanford	Atlantic Coast	100.5	4
25	Auburn	Southeastern	113.5	5.5	36	LSU	Southeastern	111.5	6	89	Syracuse	Atlantic Coast	97.5	5
134	Ball St	Mid-American	83	3	91	Marshall	Sun Belt	97	4	25	TCU	Big 12	113.5	5.5
41	Baylor	Big 12	110.5	4	75	Maryland	Big Ten	102	4.5	110	Temple	American Athletic	93	3
68	Boise St	Mountain West	103.5	5.5	61	Memphis	American Athletic	105	3	19	Tennessee	Southeastern	116	6
71	Boston College	Atlantic Coast	103	4	5	Miami (FL)	Atlantic Coast	123.5	3.5	12	Texas	Southeastern	118.5	5.5
119	Bowling Green	Mid-American	91.5	2	88	Miami (OH)	Mid-American	98	2.5	6	Texas A&M	Southeastern	122.5	6
105	Buffalo	Mid-American	93.5	3	15	Michigan	Big Ten	118	5.5	74	Texas St	Sun Belt	102.5	4
29	BYU	Big 12	113	5	62	Michigan St	Big Ten	104.5	4.5	8	Texas Tech	Big 12	122	5.5
68	California	Atlantic Coast	103.5	4	133	Middle Tenn St	Conference USA	84	3.5	58	Toledo	Mid-American	106	4
105	C Michigan	Mid-American	93.5	2.5	71	Minnesota	Big Ten	103	5	101	Troy	Sun Belt	94.5	4
130	Charlotte	American Athletic	85.5	2.5	57	Mississippi St	Southeastern	106.5	5	50	Tulane	American Athletic	108	3
39	Cincinnati	Big 12	111	4.5	17	Missouri	Southeastern	117	5	105	Tulsa	American Athletic	93.5	3.5
25	Clemson	Atlantic Coast	113.5	5.5	112	Missouri St	Conference USA	92.5	4	115	UAB	American Athletic	92	4.5
125	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	88.5	3.5	62	Navy	American Athletic	104.5	4	68	UCF	Big 12	103.5	4.5
79	Colorado	Big 12	101	4.5	53	NC State	Atlantic Coast	107.5	4.5	71	UCLA	Big Ten	103	3.5
115	Colorado St	Mountain West	92	4.5	54	Nebraska	Big Ten	107	5	80	UConn	Independent	100.5	3.5
122	Delaware	Conference USA	89.5	4.5	105	Nevada	Mountain West	93.5	4	123	UL-Monroe	Sun Belt	89	3
47	Duke	Atlantic Coast	108.5	4.5	78	New Mexico	Mountain West	101.5	3	136	UMass	Independent	76.5	2
65	East Carolina	American Athletic	104	4	130	New Mexico St	Conference USA	85.5	4	58	UNLV	Mountain West	106	3
112	E Michigan	Mid-American	92.5	2	75	North Carolina	Atlantic Coast	102	4.5	12	USC	Big Ten	118.5	5.5
32	Florida	Southeastern	112.5	5.5	41	North Texas	American Athletic	110.5	3.5	29	USF	American Athletic	113	3
91	Florida Atlantic	American Athletic	97	3	129	No Illinois	Mid-American	87	3.5	11	Utah	Big 12	119	5.5
115	Florida Int'l	Conference USA	92	2.5	54	Northwestern	Big Ten	107	3	86	Utah St	Mountain West	99	4
23	Florida St	American Coast	114	6	2	Notre Dame	Independent	128.5	5.5	123	UTEP	Conference USA	89	3
83	Fresno St	Mountain West	99.5	4.5	1	Ohio State	Big Ten	131.5	6.5	75	UTSA	American Athletic	102	3
6	Georgia	Southeastern	122.5	6	83	Ohio U	Mid-American	99.5	4.5	10	Vanderbilt	Southeastern	119.5	4
110	Geo Southern	Sun Belt	93	4	17	Oklahoma	Southeastern	117	5.5	43	Virginia	Atlantic Coast	110	4
128	Georgia St	Sun Belt	88	2	97	Oklahoma St	Big 12	95	5	60	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	105.5	5
29	Georgia Tech	Atlantic Coast	113	4.5	50	Old Dominion	Sun Belt	108	2.5	47	Wake Forest	Atlantic Coast	108.5	4.5
87	Hawaii	Mountain West	98.5	4.5	12	Ole Miss	Southeastern	118.5	5.5	16	Washington	Big Ten	117.5	5.5
50	Houston	Big 12	108	4	4	Oregon	Big Ten	125.5	5.5	65	Washington St	Pac-12	104	4
32	Illinois	Big Ten	112.5	4.5	97	Oregon St	Pac-12	95	5.5	82	West Virginia	Big 12	100	5.5
3	Indiana	Big Ten	127	4.5	22	Penn St	Big Ten	115.5	6	93	W Kentucky	Conference USA	96.5	4
19	Iowa	Big Ten	116	5	36	Pitt	Atlantic Coast	111.5	4.5	97	W Michigan	Mid-American	95	4
45	Iowa St	Big 12	109	5.5	83	Purdue	Big Ten	99.5	4.5	54	Wisconsin	Big Ten	107	5.5
120	Jacksonville St	Conference USA	91	5.5	125	Rice	American Athletic	88.5	3	103	Wyoming	Mountain West	94	5
25	James Madison	Sun Belt	113.5	4.5										

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

Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF
NFL														
25	Arizona Cardinals	NFC West	97	2.5	13	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	103	1.5					
17	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	100.5	2.5	10	New England Pats	AFC East	104	1.5					
7	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	105	3.5	29	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	95.5	1.5					
4	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	107	3	21	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	98	1.5					
28	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	96	1.5	26	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	96.5	1.5					
19	Chicago Bears	NFC North	98.5	2.5	8	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	104.5	3					
29	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	95.5	2.5	21	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	98	2.5					
26	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	96.5	2	8	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	104.5	2.5					
13	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	103	2.5	1	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	108.5	3					
10	Denver Broncos	AFC West	104	3	21	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	98	2.5					
4	Detroit Lions	NFC North	107	3	32	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	92	2.5					
6	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	106	3	21	Wash Commanders	NFC East	98	2.5					

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THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS

A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT STAR-RATED BEST BET SELECTIONS

FOR WEEK ENDING MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025		3★ BEST BET	4★ BEST BET	5★ BEST BET
	NFL	STEELERS	LIONS	COLTS
	UPSET GAME	UNLV	TOP NCAA BEST BET: INDIANA	
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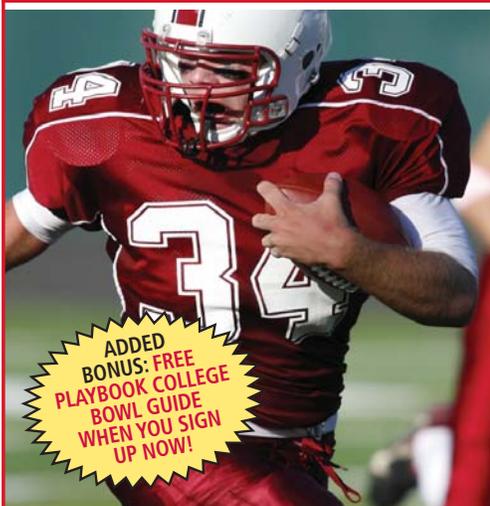
2025 COLLEGE & PRO FOOTBALL - DECEMBER 4-8

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

		OL	PB			OL	PB			OL	PB			OL	PB		
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4		109	UNLV★ 8:00 PM BOISE ST				6	BIG 10 CHAMPIONSHIP LUCAS OIL STADIUM - INDIANAPOLIS, IN				135	NEW ORLEANS 1:00 PM TAMPA BAY				
		110	FOX	2'				3				136	CBS	8'	1		
101	DALLAS 8:15 PM			SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6				119	INDIANA★ 8:00 PM OHIO ST			3	137	DENVER 8:00 PM LAS VEGAS	8	10	
102	DETROIT★ PRIME	3	14					120	FOX	6'			138	CBS			
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5		BIG 12 CHAMPIONSHIP AT&T STADIUM - ARLINGTON, TX				SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7				139	LA RAMS 4:25 PM ARIZONA			8	4		
C-USA CHAMPIONSHIP AMFIRST STADIUM - JACKSONVILLE, AL		111	BYU 12:00 PM TEXAS TECH			121	WASHINGTON 1:00 PM MINNESOTA			1		141	CINCINNATI 1:00 PM BUFFALO				
		112	ABC	11'	17	122	FOX	Pk				142	FOX	6	3		
103	KENNESAW ST 7:00 PM			MAC CHAMPIONSHIP FORD FIELD - DETROIT, MI				123	MIAMI 1:00 PM NY JETS			3	6	143	HOUSTON 8:20 PM KANSAS CITY		
104	JAX STATE CBSSN	1'	6					124	CBS					144	NBC	3'	7
SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIP BRIDGEFORTH STADIUM - HARRISONBURG, VA		113	MIAMI OHIO 12:00 PM W MICHIGAN			125	TENNESSEE 1:00 PM CLEVELAND			3		MONDAY, DECEMBER 8					
		114	ESPN	3		126	FOX	3'				145	PHILADELPHIA 8:15 PM LA CHARGERS	2'	1		
105	TROY 7:00 PM			SEC CHAMPIONSHIP MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM - ATLANTA, GA				127	PITTSBURGH★ 1:00 PM BALTIMORE			4					
106	JAMES MADISON	20'	24					128	CBS	6'							
AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP YULMAN STADIUM - NEW ORLEANS, LA		115	GEORGIA 4:00 PM ALABAMA			129	SEATTLE 1:00 PM ATLANTA			7'	11	BYES: Carolina New England, NY Giants, San Francisco					
		116	ABC	1'	6	130	FOX					Don't miss out on Marc's CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY OF THE YEAR \$69 WEEKEND OF WINNERS! Call 800.321.7777 to sign up!					
107	NORTH TEXAS 8:00 PM	3		ACC CHAMPIONSHIP BANK OF AMERICA STADIUM - CHARLOTTE, NC				131	INDIANAPOLIS★ 1:00 PM JACKSONVILLE			2	12				
108	TULANE ABC		6					132	CBS								
MWC CHAMPIONSHIP ALBERTSONS STADIUM - BOISE, ID		117	DUKE 8:00 PM VIRGINIA			133	CHICAGO 4:25 PM GREEN BAY			6	1						
		118	ABC	2'	7	134	FOX										

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- 2020 10-Star Bowl Game Of The Year: Ohio State (+7.5) 49, Clemson 28 – WINNER!
- 2019 10-Star Bowl Game Of The Year: Oregon (+3) 28, Wisconsin 27 – WINNER!