*Marc's CFB Revenge Play Of The Year Goes Saturday!*

BEST BETS BOUNCEBACK 5-0-1 LAST WEEK!

93% ATS AWESOME ANGLE INSIDE!

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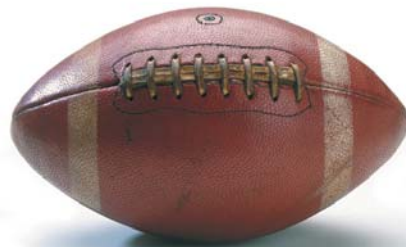
GET SMART   **GET PLAYBOOK**   **GET EVERY EDGE IMAGINABLE**

www.PlaybookSports.com   800.PLAYBOOK

UPTIGHT – EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT
A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping

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

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

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

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

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

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

The song peaked at number 3 on the Billboard Pop Single chart in 1966, at the same time reaching the top of the Billboard R&B Singles chart for five weeks. From there, Lil' Stevie never looked back – and neither did Motown Records.

And speaking of never looking back…

PLAY ON any college football underdog from Game Seven out during the regular season if they were a bowl team last season and are coming off consecutive SU losses as a favorite and they are facing a greater than .700 foe off a SU double-digit win.

No need for these teams to get "uptight". That's because "everything's alright" with these crews as they've gone 28-14-1 ATS in this role since 1990, including **24-8-1 ATS** versus foes coming off a SU win. Better yet, when taking on these same foes coming off a SUATS win, they've gone **15-2 ATS** since 2011.

This week the mad-as-hell Tigers of **Clemson** will be looking to make everything alright when they host Notre Dame.

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

Can't give her the things that
money can't buy
But I'll never, never
make my baby cry
And it's all right, what I can't do
Out of sight because
my heart is true
Everything is alright, uptight,
clean out of sight

It's here, my most popular **10* NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER**, and I'm loading it up with my best offer ever. Best of all, it starts the day you join. Check this out. **You get: My 10-Star College Football Game of the Year – WINNER last year – my 5-Star College Football and NFL Games of the Month – both winners last year – and my College Football Revenge Play of the Year** – a winner last year – all for the cost of less than one 4* winner. The same package produced a documented net profit of $2,660 last season as we swept the board on all of our 5-Star and 10-Star releases.

And there has never been a better time to join not that we're on the heels of a 6-1 winning week last week. It's highlighted with a 5-Star NFL GOM winner on the Carolina Panthers. It's a $599 value – yet it's only **$349** to all PLAYBOOK Newsletter readers! Sign up at today at PlaybookSports.com, or give me a call toll free at **800.321.7777** for fast, friendly service. You'll be glad you did!

Marc Lawrence

TRIVIA TEASER

THIS WEEK'S AMAZING SITUATIONAL PLAY

This unpopular coach has been very popular to backers of his team in games in which the Over/Under total is set at 45 or fewer points, going **5-0 ATS** in all five games of his fledgling career. Who is this week's under-the-radar coach?

For the Trivia Teaser answer,

AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK

PLAY ON any NFL road dog of 3 or more points coming off a win in Game Eight of the season if they won 11-plus games last season and they are facing a foe coming off a win that was not favored by 8 or more points in its last game.

Play ON:
DALLAS COWBOYS (11/5)

FIGURE EIGHT

ATS W-L Record S/1980:

13-1
(93%)

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

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 4	
Army **AIR FORCE**	SERIES: 4-0 L4… 4-1 L5 vs MWC… 4-2 as dogs 14 > pts 4-1 L5 vs sing revenge… 1-5 as non-conf favs > 6 pts
Washington **USC**	SERIES: 3-1 L4… 6-3 in 2nd of BB conf RG…1-4 aft Stanford 5-1 L6 vs undef conf opp… 2-8 as conf dogs 5 < pts
Lsu **ALABAMA**	SERIES: 3-1 L4… 6-0 w/ rest L5Y… 4-1 as RD's < 9 pts 4-2 L5 w/ conf revenge… 3-1 as conf HF's 10 < pts
Oklahoma **OKLA ST**	SERIES: 4-0 L4…0-5 bef W Virginia… 1-4 vs sing conf revenge 8-0 as HD's < 14 pts… 6-0 w/ sing conf revenge… 2-4 Game 9
Missouri **GEORGIA**	SERIES: 6-2 L8… 6-1 w/ rest off SU win… 3-10 as DD dogs 7-1 as conf HF's 17 < pts… 2-9 home vs conf opp w/ rest
Kansas St **TEXAS**	9-3 vs .750 > conf opp… 3-7 as conf dogs 8 < pts SERIES: 3-0 L3… 8-2 in 2nd of BB HG… 3-6 as favs < 7 pts
Notre Dame **CLEMSON**	SERIES: 3-1 L4… 11-0 as favs 6 < pts… 6-1 away vs ACC 6-2 L8 w/ revenge… 1-4 bef Ga Tech… 1-4 as dogs 7 < pts

NFL Games

TEAMS	KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS
Thursday, November 2	
Tennessee **PITTSBURGH**	5-2 in 1st of BB RG… 1-5 L6 vs AFC North… 1-4 Thursday RG SERIES: 3-0 L3… 9-2-1 L12 vs AFC south… 6-2-1 Thursday HG
Sunday, November 5	
Miami **KANSAS CITY**	SERIES: 4-2 L6… 4-1 aft div HG… 3-1 L4 vs AFC West 5-1 vs non-div off BB div gms… 4-1 bef Bye… 5-2 aft div RG
Minnesota **ATLANTA**	SERIES: 4-1 L5… 4-1 in 2nd of BB RG… 3-8 L11 vs NFC South 0-6 at non-conf RG… 2-10 L12 non-div HG… 2-9 vs NFC North
Seattle **BALTIMORE**	SERIES: 3-1 L4… 7-3 L10 non-conf RG… 0-6 aft non-conf HG 4-1 L5 non-conf HG… 1-4 in 1st of 3+ HG… 1-4 aft Arz
Arizona **CLEVELAND**	SERIES: 3-0 L3… 4-1 L5 vs AFC North… 9-2 L11 w/ OU 40 < pts 3-0 in 2nd of BB non-conf gms… 1-5 as non-div HF's 3 > pts
La Rams **GREEN BAY**	1-5 L56 w/ non-div revenge… 3-6 in 2nd of BB RG SERIES: 8-0 L8… 6-0 L6 vs NFC West… 1-4 aft div HG
Tampa Bay **HOUSTON**	5-1 in 2nd of BB non-conf gms… 3-10 L13 vs AFC South SERIES: 3-0-1 L4… 3-1 home vs opp off Thur gm… 6-3 Game 8
Washington **N ENGLAND**	4-0 L4 non-conf RG… 1-9 aft div HG… 1-9 L10 vs AFC East SERIES: 3-1 L4… 0-4 L4 vs NC East… 1-4 L5 non-conf HG
Chicago **NEW ORLEANS**	4-1 Game 9… 0-4 L4 vs NFC South… 0-3 in 2nd of BB RG SERIES: 5-1 L6… 9-3 vs NFC North… 5-2 non-div HF's 4 > pts
Indianapolis **CAROLINA**	10-2 vs .250 < non-div opp… 9-3 as non-div favs 4 < pts 6-1 L7 vs AFC South… 10-3 bef Thur gm… 1-3 in 2nd of BB HG
Ny Giants **LAS VEGAS**	SERIES: 4-1 L5… 3-1 L4 non-conf RG… 5-2 L7 vs AFC West 5-0-1 aft Det… 4-1 aft Mon gm… 3-1 non-div HF's < 4 pts
Dallas **PHILADELPHIA**	SERIES: 4-1 L5… 4-0 in 1st of BB div gms… 7-1 bef div HG 7-0 bef Bye… 6-1 L7 vs .700 > opp… 6-3 in 2nd of BB div gms
Buffalo **CINCINNATI**	3-0 aft TB… 9-2 aft non-conf HG… 4-1-1 L6 vs AFC North SERIES: 3-1 L4… 8-0 aft non-conf RG… 3-0 L3 vs AFC East
Monday, November 6	
La Chargers **NY JETS**	8-0 bef Det… 8-3 as non-div RF's… 1-6 L7 vs AFC East SERIES: Host 4-2… 5-1 L6 vs AFC West… 0-5 Game 8

PUTTIN' ON THE STATS

With Halloween in the rearview mirror, it's on to the best time of the College Football season – the month of November! That's because the combination of stats and angles brings us the best winning edges of the year. Our 'Puttin' On The Stats' theory is a dandy. Best of all, it's simple. And it wins.

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

Conversely, we will look to 'Play Against' any favorite that has lost all – or all but one – of their games in total yards ITS.

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

PLAY-ON AS DOGS: Air Force, Clemson, Coastal Carolina, *Georgia, James Madison, *Liberty, Louisville, Maryland, *Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, *Ohio State, *Oregon, SMU, TCU, *Tennessee, Texas, *Toledo, Tulane, and *UCLA.

PLAY-AGAINST AS FAVORITES: Connecticut, *Eastern Michigan, Florida International, Illinois, Iowa, Nevada and South Carolina.

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

And finally, you find two teams populating the **"Play On Good Guys"** list who do not own a winning record, while one team resides on the **"Play Against Bad Guys"** that does.

To kick off the festivities this week, we find **Clemson, Maryland, Missouri, and TCU** as qualifying 'Play On' dogs, with **Iowa and Nevada** from the 'Play Against' group.

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

EVERY EDGE IMAGINABLE

INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

Rice is 17-0-1 ATS as a conference home dog when coming off an ATS win of more than 6 points.

Be sure to read the INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK each week in the PLAYBOOK Football Newsletter!

THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL - OCT 31-NOVEMBER 6

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Tuesday, October 31

TOLEDO over Buffalo by 10

It's a two-day MAC-a-thon kicking off tonight on All Hallows' Eve but thanks to a time change from 7:00 to 7:30 ET here, this slugfest actually rolls in as the nightcap event. Toledo takes the field as the only remaining MAC team with an unblemished record in conference play. The 7-1 / 4-0 Rockets reside in sole possession of first place in the MAC West with a one-game lead over Northern Illinois, who they've already topped this season, making this contest not as critical for the projectiles as it is for invading Buffalo. Good thing for Maurice Linguist's Bulls that they're **8-3 SU and 10-0-1 ATS** in games when both teams are coming off wins as favorites while Toledo is dragging along a **1-9 ATS** chain of failure in its last ten games off a SU win. If that doesn't increase your heart rate, how about the fact that Buffalo beat the Rockets, 34-27, as 7-point dogs last season? We dressed up in a judge's costume tonight so we're going to declare "Case Closed" to all who want to risk their cash on Toledo. Next!

CENTRAL MICHIGAN over Northern Illinois by 1

Basking in the glow of ringing the first doorbell and shouting "Trick or Treat", tonight's NIU vs. CMU clash is first off the ESPN blocks. It's a critical game for the Chippewas, who would pull into a 2nd place tie with the Huskies following a win this evening, and Jim McElwain's squad figures to come hungrier in this contest. For one thing, the Chips enter with confidence knowing they beat the Huskies 35-22 as 4.5-point dogs last season. And the other? Try Central Michigan's recent **7-2 SU and 8-1 ATS** series dominance on for size. Meanwhile, the 4-4 / 3-1 Huskies reside in 2nd place in the MAC West, trailing Toledo by one game, but the Rockets hold the hammer. Still, a victory by the Huskies would pretty much boot CMU from the picture and turn the West into a 2-horse race with Toledo down the stretch. The public seems to like that scenario, moving NIU quickly from -3.5-point chalk to -5.5. But strange things happen on Halloween, like reaching for your wallet – only to find it GONE. We get the temptation to ride the Huskies, especially with the Chippewas' offense on hiatus (17, 17, and 13 points scored the last 3 games). However, there's some real voodoo going on between these two and CMU seems to be living inside NIU's head of late. It ain't broke, so we won't fix it. However, we will return this apple for whatever chocolate you've got left.

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.

2023 COLLEGE FOOTBALL TOP 25 PLAYOFF RANKINGS

As Paul Myerberg of USA TODAY said, before we go crazy and flip out over the debut of the College Football Playoff rankings this week, consider that in eight of the nine previous seasons of the postseason format, 15 of the 32 teams listed in the top four of the debut rankings did not make the playoff semifinals. The one exception is the 2020 season, when the coronavirus pandemic pushed the first rankings to Nov. 24 and the top remained the same through selection day on Dec. 20. That being said, **here are the Top 25 teams in the nation, per the CFP Rankings**:

1 OHIO STATE

2	Georgia	10	Ole Miss	18	Utah
3	Michigan	11	Penn State	19	UCLA
4	Florida State	12	Missouri	20	USC
5	Washington	13	Louisville	21	Kansas
6	Oregon	14	LSU	22	Oklahoma State
7	Texas	15	Notre Dame	23	Kansas State
8	Alabama	16	Oregon State	24	Tulane
9	Oklahoma	17	Tennessee	25	Air Force

Wednesday, November 1

BOWLING GREEN over Ball State by 10

Three of the four teams playing on tonight's MAC card own a combined win-loss record of 4-20 and are headed straight for nowhere. Bowling Green is the only centrist in the bunch, balanced precariously atop a razor-thin .500 line overall and in conference play. We're trying to warn you that this duo – and the pair that follows as well – is less than dynamic when it comes to generating viewer interest across America, and in watching you run the risk of discovering exactly why they're so bad. Disclaimers aside, welcome to this matchup of the 1-3 / 2-6 Cardinals, who are anchored in the cellar of the MAC West, and the 4-4 / 2-2 Falcons, who are right where you'd expect them to be – mid-rung in the MAC East. Hump day has been a real ATS buzzkill for Ball State recently, as the gonads are on a **0-6 ATS** slide on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the host Falcons have fattened up with an **8-1 ATS** record as weekday favorites of fewer than 8 points. Still not a strong recommendation as both teams bring popgun offenses into the fray, each averaging fewer than 290 yards of offense per game. But if we find ourselves at the window, we'll back the incentivized birds of BGSU.

Kent State over AKRON by 1

Tonight's featured prime-time closer from MAC land is a no-holds-barred affair where the winner will avoid (for now) last place in the conference. At least this battle for the bottom of the barrel between two neighborhood rivals, each 1-7 / 0-4 on the season, will give one team bragging rights even if they don't taste victory for the remainder of 2023. Let's open the bidding with Kent State, currently **0-5 ATS** in their last five as dogs, losing by an average of 31-10, and never getting closer than 14 points to any of those foes. That makes it very difficult for us to show the Navy-Blue-and-Gold some love, especially knowing their only win this season came against Central Connecticut State. But folks we're looking at a Kodak moment here with Akron being favored over an FBS opponent. Yes, it's the second time it has occurred this season but the first, an outright loss to Buffalo as -2.5-point chalk on 9/30, snapped a skein of 25 straight games where the Zips took points. Our question tonight is how can these guys be favored? Akron has dumped 6 straight games while the offense has produced a lifeless 13 PPG during that span, plus UA is a disastrous **1-11 ATS** versus foes with rest of late. Then there's the problem of a **1-6 ATS** failure in the last 7 series games with Kent, and 3 straight ATS losses on this field. Sheesh. We'll defer to our tried-and-true tradition of taking the points whenever two such miserable programs collide. You should, too.

Tcu over TEXAS TECH by 3

Two teams with great expectations that have been forced to endure disappointing campaigns. Texas Tech is tied for 8th place in the Big 12 (with TCU among others) and a loss here means the 3-5 Red Raiders will have to run the table against Kansas, UCF, and Texas to have any shot at bagging a bowl. Frogs dress up as a defending Playoff Championship Game losing dog, and while they are the only team to have failed in this role (**8-1 ATS**) since the inception of the College Football Playoff, (and they failed miserably in a 41-3 loss at Kansas State two weeks ago in their last appearance) they bring a lot of what we like into this contest. For openers they fit snugly inside this week's **SMART BOX** on page 3, plus TCU will be in a foul mood after losing to K-State: the Frogs wanted to get revenge for last year's Big 12 title loss – knocking them from the ranks of the undefeated – but the Wildcats wasted no time in putting a foot to TCU's throat and cruised to a 38-point blowout in the rematch. Tech is an undependable **1-5 ATS** when arriving off a SU favorite loss and they show up trending downward on a 0-2 SUATS skein. Don't forget this: TCU head coach Sonny Dykes is 8-3 ATS as a dog when his team is playing with rest, including **3-0 SUATS** versus losing foes.

DUKE over Wake Forest by 7

A little over a month ago, Duke was sailing along at 4-0, ready to host Notre Dame and move up in the national standings after a win. Sorry, Blue Devils. They roll out the welcome mat to Tobacco Road rival Wake Forest tonight while grappling with a 1-3 SU slide in their last four outings, mostly due to the continued rash of injuries bedeviling QB Riley Leonard. While reports state that Leonard wanted to go back in after banging up his ankle in Duke's shutout loss to Louisville, head coach Mile Elko would not allow it, and there have been no further updates on Leonard's condition since then. Meanwhile, the 4-4 Demon Deacons are riding an even worse 1-4 SU skid and need this game like blood with three of their final four games of the campaign being on the road. Yes, head coach Dave Clawson and crew have found the going difficult without former QB Sam Hartman, but the Deacs do bring some good numbers into this fracas: **7-0 ATS** in games when both teams are coming in off a SUATS loss, **5-1 ATS** Weekdays versus conference foes, and 9-3 ATS in their last 12 as double-digit dogs. While Duke did edge Wake Forest as a 3-point dog last season, 34-31, the biggest concern here is the Blue Devils' **1-10 ATS** mark as ACC home chalk of 4 or more points, as well as **1-8 ATS** when coming off back-to-back losses. Thus, with QB Leonard still iffy, a Duke fade appears to be in order tonight.

TROY over South Alabama by 10

Following last year's breakthrough 10-3 campaign, South Alabama was expected to continue that success with a whopping 18 starters returning for action and a national ranking of No. 8 in returning player production. However, the anticipation of an appearance in the Sun Belt title game in December quickly went up in smoke as the Jaguars bumbled and stumbled their way to a mediocre 4-4 / 2-2 effort in 2023. Unlike South Bama, Troy began this season hoping to duplicate last year's 12-2 run despite the fact that the Trojans ranked No. 116 in returning player production. Guess what? Second-year head coach Jon Sumrall guided his team past a rough 1-2 start, and they take the field tonight riding an impressive 5-game win skein, including four straight ATS covers. Troy's ticket-cashing chances are solid here considering South Alabama has failed to cover a single spread this season when they come up short on the scoreboard. The Jags have also lost five in a row SU in the series while going **0-6 ATS** in the last six get-togethers. The Well-Oiled Machine puts the finishing touches on this one noting that Troy is **9-1 ATS** when coming off consecutive wins while South Alabama is an awful **1-10 ATS** away when coming off consecutive hosters. You know what to do.

Boston College over SYRACUSE by 3

The first four games of this season for Syracuse had the look of a painted masterpiece when they went 4-0 SU and 3-0-1 ATS, winning the stats in every contest by an average 267 yards per game. However, it turns out head coach Dino Babers must have been working with traditional paint pigments that contained heavy metals like cobalt, lead, strontium, and zinc. Oops! After the poison began to spread, the

Orange went **0-4 SUATS and ITS** (In The Stats), losing by an average margin of -18.5 PPG and an average stat loss of -302 net YPG. So now what they have is the football equivalent of leprosy, which mean you don't want to touch them anytime soon, and we won't be surprised if Babers has to turn in his palette, brushes, and beret at the end of the semester. Why not simplify this matchup and go with a Boston College squad that has won four straight games compared to Da Cuse's four consecutive losses? In fact, the Eagles bring an **8-0 ATS** ledger into this brawl when coming off a home favorite win, as well as a **5-1 ATS** mark on Weekdays. BC is also looking to get even for back-to-back losses to the Orange, and Syracuse owns a dreadful **0-5 ATS** record at home versus double revenge. Considering Babers' boys have scored just 34 total points in their 4-game slide, the Eagles' 6-2 ATS success when playing with double conference revenge seals the deal. Take it or leave it.

WYOMING over Colorado State by 11

While Wyoming does sit in 4th place in this year's MWC race, an earlier loss to Air Force means the Cowboys have their work cut out for them if they want to face the Flyboys in a rematch for the conference championship. Can they do it? The Pokes have already dispatched 2nd-place Fresno State, handing the Bulldogs their only loss of the year, and get to take on 3rd-place UNLV after tonight's contest with CSU. That means a win is in order here, not that tall of a task considering Wyoming has won all five of its games at War Memorial Stadium this season. Checking in at 3-5 / 1-3, the visiting Rams know their season is likely on the line, but they've been unable to run the ball, ranking No. 132 at 75 RYPG which ties into a wobbly -1.1 net yards Per Rush. Hey, even if they somehow managed to revive their running game, Colorado State is facing a slew of superior Wyoming ATS numbers tonight. Not only are the Cowboys **8-0 ATS** when coming off a conference contest versus a foe coming off a non-conference clash, they're 7-3 SUATS at home in this series, including **3-0 SUATS** the last three. We close the book noting the Boys are **8-0 ATS** as home chalk of less than 17 points when hosting foes coming off a loss, while the Rams are **0-7 SUATS** in games when both teams arrive off a SUATS loss. FYI: Here's a bar wager you might want to keep up your sleeve. Which state is nicknamed The Equality State because it was first to grant women the right to vote? Wyoming.

Coastal Carolina over OLD DOMINION by 7

At 5-3 / 3-2 for the season, the Chanticleers sit one game behind Georgia Southern, and two back of James Madison, for top honors in the Sun Best East division. It looks like a good spot to be in considering JMU is ineligible to play in this year's conference championship game, but having already lost to GSU in late September, Coastal Carolina is likely more concerned about gaining bowl eligibility for the fourth straight season. That's hard to swallow for a CCU team that was ranked in the national polls for 27 straight weeks until late last season. First-year head coach Tim Beck is working to restore the glory days in Conway and his troops have out-gained 6 of the seven foes *(continued on next page)*

they've faced this campaign. They'll need to keep it up this afternoon against a dangerous Old Dominion squad that's lost by more than 6 points to only one of the four teams they've failed to defeat in 2023. The Monarchs have become a moneymaking machine, currently on a **7-0 ATS** conference win skein as well as a **6-0 ATS** skein as dogs. What we don't dig, though, is ODU's 3-5 log 'In the Stats' this season. The 'Cleers will be looking for payback from last year's humiliating 49-21 loss to the Monarchs and they go into battle with a 9-3 SU and **11-0-1 ATS** record when seeking revenge against .300 or greater opponents. And for what it's worth, Ol' Dirty U stands 6-16 SU and 8-14 ATS at home against foes with a better record since joining the FBS in 2014, including **0-6 SUATS** when not grabbling 4 or more points. Thus, we'll side with the visiting chalk today.

TENNESSEE over Connecticut by 31

Pity the sled dogs. After what many – including us – thought would be a promising season in 2023 after returning 19 starters from last year's upstart bowl squad, they've reverted back to their losing ways at 1-7 this year. That 1-7 effort also matches their ITS (In The Stats) log which has put them back behind the 8-ball, and in the wrong place at the wrong time today. Despite being taken to the limit by Kentucky last week, this is little more than a scrimmage for the Vols and with it there is always a price to pay (read: the point spread). To further put the mismatch into perspective, if today's game were a high noon duel in the streets, UConn would be armed with a Derringer against Tennessee's .44 Magnum. If you're insistent on playing the Vols here, we'll warn you that Rocky Top is just 10-12 ATS as a favorite of -30 or more points, including **2-7 ATS** versus sub .333 foes. The bottom line is playing prohibitive favorites in conference sandwich games is not our cup of tea.

Miami Florida over NC STATE by 6

Is the Pack back after last week's 24-17 dismantling of Clemson as a 20-point dog? At 5-3 on the season, and in need of one more win to become bowl eligible, one might assume so. However, a deeper probe finds they were outgained 340-180 yards in their victory over the wheezing remains of the once-great Tigers. The Hurricanes have been working their lucky rabbit's foot overtime this season – save for Mario Dumbbell's brain lapse in the Georgia Tech contest – like winning last week's game as an 18-point favorite against Virginia in overtime despite being out-yarded by over 100 yards in the contest. And speaking of not-so-Super Mario, he is 7-11 ATS as a conference favorite when coming off consecutive wins in his career, including 4-11 ATS against foes that allow fewer than 31 points per game. He's also 3-12 ATS in his last 15 conference games when laying points if he laid points in the previous game. While we'd love to take advantage with NC State, the Wolfpack are a dismal **1-9 ATS** off a SUATS win. There are lots of crummy numbers for both, but in a win situation we'll cross our fingers and hope that the final play does not come down to a football decision by Cristobal.

Wisconsin over INDIANA by 13

Wisconsin hosted The Beast of the East last week in Camp Randall Stadium and it did not go well for head coach Luke Fickell and his Badgers. The 24-10 loss to the Buckeyes dropped the Badgers into a massive four-way tie atop the Big Ten West division among mediocre teams, meaning every game going forward needs to be a victory for Wisconsin as Iowa owns the tiebreaker over Bucky. They'll need to focus on an offense that's struggled of late, scoring just 41 points in their last 3 games, but Fickell should come up with a suitable strategy to exploit an Indiana defense that's giving up slightly less than 30 PPG. The Hoosiers have certainly been manhandled in this series of late, going 1-10 SU and 3-8 ATS. They're also just **1-7 ATS** when coming off a loss but an ATS win when facing a foe off a loss, but an ATS win. Not so for Wisconsin, who enters **10-1 SUATS** in games when coming off a home loss, as well as **8-1 ATS** in games when coming off a loss but ATS win. With IU's Tom Allen likely a lame duck head coach we simply can't back the Hoosiers in this contest, and neither should you.

CINCINNATI over Ucf by 3

A pair of Big 12 newbies, and former American Athletic rivals, hook up in the Queen City. It's not all they have in common as both teams reside in the Big 12 cellar, one game back of another AAC transfer in 1-4 Houston. Safe to say the transition from a Group of Five conference to a Power Five league has not produced the expected results. In fact, after a 2-0 start, Cincinnati is on a 0-6 SUATS slide while the Knights spoiled a 3-0 start with a 0-5 SU and 1-4 ATS descent. We like the fact

that UCF owns an offense that ranks No. 8 in the nation, totaling 488 yards per game, but both teams are burning money like a housewife in Beverly Hills with UCF **1-11 ATS** when both teams are coming off a loss, and UC **1-10-1 ATS** in conference play. Ugh. At least Bearcats head coach Scott Satterfield, who probably wishes he had never left Louisville, brings a 17-7 SU and 11-7-1 ATS at home off a loss to this game of Survivor. With the series host currently 6-2 SU and **7-1 ATS**, we'll vote Central Florida off the island this afternoon.

SOUTH CAROLINA over Jacksonville State by 17

It's the Battle of the Gamecocks between a struggling middle-rung SEC team and an FBS newbie that's enjoyed great success so far. Yes, it's been a year that's gone to hell in a handbag for third-year South Carolina head coach Shane Beamer, who broke his right foot after his team lost to Florida, 41-29, in mid-October because he "kicked something I shouldn't have kicked" out of frustration. We're not certain if he kicked anything else in the following weeks as SC lost games against Missouri and Texas A&M, dropping the Gamecocks down to where they must sweep a season-ending four-game homestand to secure a bowl bid for the third-straight year. Don't discount the possibility but they'll need to do it one game at a time. It starts at high noon in Columbia against a Jacksonville State squad that has transitioned well from the Minor League to the Majors, going 7-2 SU and 5-1-2 ATS. It's mostly attributable to the experience of head coach Rich Rodriguez, who brings a 3-1 SU career mark against SEC opposition into this matchup. Rich Rod is also 23-8 SU against sub .333 foes, including 11-5-2 ATS away, but we suspect this may be a test he can't pass this week. Simply put, South Carolina has not lowered the boom on anyone since thrashing Furman in Week Two, and they'll show up here at their most ornery, unwilling to let another gang of roosters into their territory. Beamer's boys have certainly bounced back off a double-digit loss, going **5-1 ATS** recently, and a quick check of Jax State's schedule shows they've played no one near South Carolina's caliber. It won't be easy, but we suggest laying the points with the Palmetto State Gamecocks.

Ohio State over RUTGERS by 8

OSU head coach Ryan Day should send a big-time gift basket to Lou Holtz this holiday season. Since Holtz declared that this year's Buckeyes were not physical enough to be a great team, Ohio State has choked the life out of four straight opponents, holding them to an average of just 11.5 PPG. Physical? We got your physical right here! Still, after outlasting another team in Saturday night's 14-point win at Wisconsin, the Buckeyes dropped to **1-6 ATS** as road chalk of late, including **0-4 ATS** versus foes coming off a win. They also bring along an **0-6 ATS** mark in the second of back-to-back Big Ten road games and are 5-10-1 ATS when undefeated and taking on a .750 or greater opponent. Too bad the Scarlet Knights aren't living in the Big Ten West; if so, they'd be tied with Iowa for the division lead. They're still 6-2 this season but now comes the part where we must acknowledge the fact that the last four series meetings have been one-sided affairs with Ohio State winning 49-10, 52-13, 49-27 and 56-21. Grisly, we know, but Rutgers head coach Greg Schiano is 15-5 SUATS with rest

in FBS contests, including **6-0 SUATS** at home against conference foes. In a matchup of Top 12 ranked defenses, the Buckeyes need to be on guard as this contest reeks of a possible upset. **THIS JUST IN: The Buckeyes are the surprise No. 1 team in the initial CFP Top 25 rankings for the 2023 season.**

Florida State over PITTSBURGH by 16

In recent years, a trip to Steel City by the Seminoles could be somewhat problematic but not anymore. Not when this year's 2-6 Panthers are marinating in failure along with Virginia in the ACC cellar. And certainly not when the No. 4 Seminoles show up undefeated at 8-0, smashing opponents by an average of 22.3 PPG. These two rarely cross paths: their only meeting over the previous nine seasons came at Tallahassee in 2020, where Pitt roughed up FSU 41-17. We don't expect a similar outcome this afternoon, but we don't have to, not when the Panthers are getting at least 3 touchdowns on the line. It turns out that the 'Noles are **0-4 ATS** when 8-0 or greater, and 2-8 ATS before tangling with arch rival Miami, including **0-5 ATS** when Florida State is coming off a win. Yes, we know it's hard to erase the memory of Pitt's 58-7 humiliation at Notre Dame last week, but the Panthers are **3-0 ATS** after playing the Irish, plus they're 9-3 ATS as a double-digit dog versus an undefeated foe. Yet another game where an 8-0 road favorite could be up against more than it realizes

---

UPSET   *GAME OF THE WEEK*   **UPSET**

MARYLAND over Penn State by 1

Penn State avoided a total meltdown after losing its first game of the season against Ohio State, somehow piecing together a 33-24 win over stubborn Indiana as 31-point chalk. Yes, the Nits own the nation's top-ranked defense, but you would too if you took on FBS foes whose offense ranked No. 91 overall (hello Iowa, UMass, Northwestern). They're expected to continue their winning ways this afternoon against a Maryland team that's completely trashed a 5-0 start with a trio of consecutive losses. Okay, we can understand the Terrapins getting thumped by Ohio State but losing to Illinois and Northwestern? C'mon man! Fortunately for head Terp Mike Locksley, his team could likely emerge from their shell here thanks to their appearance inside this week's **SMART BOX** on page 3. Inquiring minds also know that the Lions have not exactly roared when facing a .700 or greater conference opponent away from Happy Valley, going just 4-12 ATS in this role of late. We think the deciding factor is PSU staring dead ahead to Michigan next week, which leads us to **THE CLINCHER: Penn State head coach James Franklin is 8-20 SU and 9-17-2 ATS away in his career against greater than .600 opponents, including 2-15 SU and 5-11 ATS from Game Five out.**

APPALACHIAN STATE over Marshall by 3

Since last season's move to the Sun Belt, things have been less than thundering for the Herd, who bring an overall 6-6 SU and 4-8 ATS mark in conference play the past two seasons, including 1**-3 SU and 0-4 ATS** this year. At 4-4 overall this season they will need to win half of their remaining four games to earn a coveted bowl bid. That's a downer for Marshall fans, who have seen their team go bowling for six straight seasons, and 9 of the last ten. It won't be easy to bag a 'W' here on a chilly night in Boone where Appalachian State is 40-6 SU in its last forty-six games on The Rock since 2016. Like Marshall, the 4-4 / 2-2 Mountaineers are on the bowl cusp, but they are also just 4-4 ITS (In The Stats) this season, which is down dramatically from the 49-15 tally they had the previous five seasons. Another problem is ASU's miserable **1-13 ATS** losing skein in conference games, as well as a **1-10 ATS** mark as a favorite when favored the previous game. Yikes. With both sides struggling as you read this, it's best to take a seat on the sidelines and let those with more disposable income take their shot.

Tulane over EAST CAROLINA by 21

Warning: the conference bear is on the loose in Pirate Land, and ECU will need more than Captain Jack Sparrow and his crew to weather this storm. In fact, if not for some fortunate scheduling that served up Gardner-Webb in Game Four, these Pirates would be lost in the briny deep with nary a win to put in their treasure chest. In an interesting twist to this year's AAC race, the first-place Green Wave's 7-1 / 4-0 record is a rich-and-poor opposite of the Pirates 1-7 / 0-4 mark. East

---

Carolina's Mike Houston entered this season with a 22-24 record with the Pirates, so perhaps he won't be asked to walk the plank after the current disaster subsides. As for Tulane's Willie Fritz, he can't afford a stumble with fast-charging SMU and UTSA also at 4-0, and right on their heels his two goals. His goal this afternoon is simple: win the game and avoid injury to key personnel. If you're still feeling weak-kneed at the prospect of laying big wood with Tulane, the Greenies check in at **8-2 SU and 9-1 ATS** coming off a win as a favorite when facing a foe coming off a loss as a dog. The Pirates could go quietly here as they're a **0-4 ATS** in this series when Tulane owns a winning record, so take a deep breath and lay the doubles.

Nebraska over MICHIGAN STATE by 8

Is Matt Rhule really that good or was Scott Frost that bad? To say the presence of head coach Rhule on the Cornhuskers' sideline has been a major factor in Nebraska's turnaround would be an understatement. At 5-3 / 3-2, they are one win away from bowling for the first time since 2016, when they last enjoyed a winning season. The children of the corn can also claim an achievement that did not occur once during Frost's five seasons in Lincoln: winning 3 consecutive games. They can make it 4 in a row with a win over a Michigan State team that legitimately seems to be cursed. It was the 'Stat You Will Like' from the 2023 PLAYBOOK Football Preview magazine which stated that the Spartans' first five losses in 2022 came against teams that were 20-1 collectively at the start of the game. Fast forward to now and their losses this season have come against teams that were 23-6 combined. We don't know who Sparty will hire as a permanent replacement for disgraced Mel Tucker, but they'll need to budget a few trips to the bruja to get rid of the bad juju that's settled over East Lansing. While there are plenty of caution signs for Nebraska on the road to MSU, such as the Silk's **0-6 ATS** record when coming off a double-digit win, there's a new mindset in the making with this team. Are we actually going to suggest playing another road favorite? One look at Nebraska's recent **9-1 ATS** series success against the Spartans should answer that question.

WEST VIRGINIA over Byu by 1

In the long and storied history of this rivalry… oh never mind. These teams did meet in 2016 with WVU winning in a season-opening thriller 35-32 but this is the first B12 conference shot these teams have at each other. WVU is still taking a standing eight count after the dramatic last second loss to Houston two games ago, and instead of being perhaps 7-1 or 6-2 they are 5-3 with rumors about Head Coach Neal Brown's job status swirling again. Brown's 'Eers have been outgained in their last five games and are **1-7 ATS** versus teams coming off a loss when WVU is coming off a win. Brigham Young has been resilient in its Big 12 debut, they haven't lost two in a row this season and are also 5-3.

Under Head Coach Kalani Sitake the Cougars are 19-9 ATS as a dog of a dozen points or less and a remarkable **7-0 ATS** after game 7. This is far from a perfect BYU team, they struggle like crazy on third down, ranked 127th in the nation out of 133 teams, plus QB Kedon Slovis' lack of mobility has been exposed. BYU will bring a tough defense into Morgantown, having held an explosive Texas offense to 100 yards under its average. West Virginia may be almost heaven, but the loser of this game will face the hellish possibility of missing a bowl game. Since there is no beef between these schools, we wonder if Mountaineers fans will continue their tradition of the one fingered greeting visiting team buses get when approaching Milan-Puskar Stadium.

LOUISVILLE over Virginia Tech by 14

A few weeks back we wondered what happened to Virginia Tech, how and why a former perennial ACC contender had fallen into such disarray. We're not going to take too much credit, but the Hokies have covered in their last four, winning three of them with the only loss to Florida State. VT is 4-4 with four to play and two of them winnable, which would make the Hokies bowl eligible. VT is fourth in the ACC defensively, allowing 316 YPG, and when Tech has the ball RS-Sophomore QB Kyron Drones has been great in the air and on the ground. Drones, formerly at Baylor, is the Hokies' second leading rusher. Sounds wonderful…but the ice-cold reality is UL hasn't lost at home this season and are 6-0 ATS as a home favorite of 7 or more, 6-2 ATS in the second of three straight home games and are out to avenge a loss in Blacksburg last year. Tech has a strange brew of **1-9 ATS** in the first of back-to-back road games and are **1-6 ATS** in Game 9. Louisville is a clear second in the ACC and winning out gets them a shot at FSU in the conference title game. The Cards are outgaining foes by +144 yards per game. Both teams are at a Crossroads and while it would be a Badge of honor for the Hokies to win, the Cream will rise to the top at Howard Schnellenberger Field.

Georgia Tech over VIRGINIA by 3

The two teams that conquered North Carolina get together to swap stories and play a little football. In an alarming development, the Cavaliers are the early line favorite for the first time this season, which is both impressive and puzzling for a team that started 0-5 and is now 2-6 and lost their last game in heartbreaking overtime fashion. Plunge against GT at your own risk because the dog is **6-1 ATS** in their games including a pair of outright double-digit dog wins. If you can figure out the Ramblin' Wreck you win free fries at The Varsity. The last four games were a loss to Bowling Green, kneecapping Miami, losing to Boston College and then the upset over the Heels. Tech does have a potent offense and unlike the Paul Johnson days, Tech actually passes the ball on purpose. QB Haynes King has at least one TD pass in every game including four vs. UNC last week, earning the Davey O'Brien Award weekly honor. Want some off-kilter facts about Ga. Tech? They have only won even-numbered games (UVA is their ninth) and each time they have played a ranked team, that team has been ranked #17. They beat Miami and North Carolina but got run over by the Lane Train from Ole Miss. UVA's biggest problem is closing out close games; under Tony Elliott they are 1-7 in games decided by 3 points or less. Last week was the perfect example, as they "Outeverythinged" the Hurricanes, and still lost. We just can't trust these Wahoos yet and we certainly can't trust a team that's **1-7 ATS** as a favorite against an opponent coming off an outright win as the underdog.

Navy over TEMPLE by 3

Plenty of seats and parking will be available for this one at the Linc where the players won't have to be introduced by the public address announcer. Instead, they can go up into the stands and individually meet the crowd. Have you bet on Temple? Have you tried punching yourself in the face repeatedly? The results are the same: Pain. Temple is **0-7 ATS** this season, which places them in FBS solitary confinement as the only team to be so hard on your CashApp. Navy still has a shot at bowl eligibility, but it's hard to completely back them as the favorite given their logbook, which shows 3-9 ATS as the favorite of 7 or less against a team coming off a pair of losses. The Mids (editor's note to Stormin' Norman: they are not called Middies, that, I found out the hard way, is a no-no) are just that as a team…mid…3-4/2-2 but on the bounce back after an 0-3 start. Temple knows Navy is going to run the ball, Navy knows Temple knows Navy is going to run the ball, Temple knows Navy knows Temple knows Navy is going to run the ball…and the 5,000 or so hearty souls who will pack the stands in Philly know what you know too. Both teams are averaging less than 20 PPG on offense. It's not quite the ESPN Minus Game of the Week, but it's on the podium. We say skip it, skip it good. When this matchup comes along, you must skip it.

Iowa over Northwestern by 3

THE GAME OF THE YEAR!!! There are 6th grade flag football games with a higher over/under than the 29.5 assigned by the desert. Wrigley Field, where disappointment frequently reigns for the home Cubbies, will host this classic B1G battle of two black and white offenses in a color era of college football. Add to this there are multiple reports out of Iowa City saying embattled offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz won't be invited back next season, which isn't surprising given the Hawkeyes poor offensive performance. Incredibly one of these teams made it past Marc's velvet rope into **THE SMART BOX** and it's Northwestern. The Wild?Cats are 11-4-1 ATS as a dog when coming off a straight up underdog win and **5-1 ATS** against a team coming off a loss. It was a bitter loss to Minnesota for Iowa, especially with the rules' controversy about the punt (Sidebar-the call was technically if not artistically correct). Northwestern has an 85 yards per game edge on offense, which is about three quarters worth of Iowa production and that, combined with the very temporary residency in the Sagacious Square, gives the edge to Northwestern. NBC must be very desperate to add Peacock subscriptions to the bottom line, otherwise why take THE GAME OF THE YEAR off linear TV. This game should be like Super Bowl I, broadcast on competing networks at the same time. This just in: as of mid-week, the O/U total has risen to 31…WWJB?

James Madison over GEORGIA STATE by 3

We've never understood the whole "transition" rules by the NCAA regarding a team joining FBS from FCS. Why aren't they immediately eligible for championships? Where's the harm? James Madison is the latest to get screwed by the Dwight Schrutes' of the world, and JMU has been taking out its anger on opponents. They enter downtown Atlanta on a 10-game win streak and are holding teams to 49 rush yards per game, best in FBS, but yet the organization can't win any trophies for now. GSU is 6-2, second best in the Fun Belt behind the Dukes. The Panthers are **5-0 ATS** off a double-digit ATS loss, 10-2 ATS the last 12 games and since passing through double secret probation, their ATS is 61-39-4. We warned you in pre-season the Sun Belt was a salty conference this year, and even the obnoxious restaurant poser Salt Bae would spread the sodium on this one. Speaking of spreads, it's hard to walk away from either team, so proceed cautiously.

MINNESOTA over Illinois by 7

Speaking of proceeding cautiously, we are treating this game like walking across the Carrick-A-Rede rope bridge in County Atrim, Northern Ireland. Look it up folks. On one hand, Minnesota is in a four-way tie for first in the Big 10 West at 5-2 / 3-2 and they are

9-2 ATS against a team coming off a loss. Offensively, the Gophers are nearly in the same slop where Iowa and NW roll around, but defensively Minnesota is giving up around 319 YPG. On the other side of the bridge is **THE SMART BOX** where the Illini is trapped this week, lumped into the pen with the other underachievers. Illinois has only outgained one team this year, the non-conference Owls from Florida Atlantic. Bret Bielema's squad is **1-7 ATS** this season as he's finding the coaches' chair warming incrementally with each weak performance. Illinois is bad enough to make this look like an easy choice, but Minnesota's passing game is as rickety as the bridge. Seven TD passes, eight interceptions and only 140 yards in the air per game. Don't look down while crossing to the window and plunge cautiously.

BAYLOR over Houston by 6
The H Men limp from Manhattan, KS to Waco after suffering their first shutout since 9/23/00 when Texas blanked them 48-0. 8,435 days in between shutouts is a nice mark for a school historically known for offensive football but UH is getting not just a taste of the Big 12, they're getting the whole foot shoved down its throat. The 41-point margin of defeat was the worst for Houston since a loss to Tulsa in 2007. All the American Athletic refugees are looking up at the rest of the conference with a combined B12 record of 1-14, UH holding the only win on a Hail Mary to beat West Virginia. It's not like BU is a conference monster; their only wins in the B12 are against UCF and Cincinnati but they are **7-1 ATS** when coming off a home dog loss and **7-1 ATS** when both teams are coming off SUATS defeats. The Bears are sharper when Blake Shapen is the signal-caller, although in his five starts he's been sacked 17 times. He's a pocket passer on a team that's better off in the air than handing the ball off. You can say the same for Houston too and the Coogs' chances may depend on QB Donovan Smith bouncing back from being bounced around in Manhattan. He had thrown 11 TD passes in the previous three games. We're not sure even Joanna and Chip Gaines would be able to renovate the Cougars for this season anyway, and why would Waco's most popular residents turn their backs on Baylor? We aren't.

OREGON STATE over Colorado by 19
We knew eventually it would happen. Talent wins or loses out over the long run and the lack of premier line play in Boulder has caught up with Coach Prime's Buffaloes. CU is **1-4 ATS** in their last five and the primary culprit has been the defense, giving up 37.6 points and 442 yards per game in those five games. Much like Deion, we've kept the receipts too and they point out Colorado is **0-15 ATS** as conference home dog of 14 or greater. Bowl eligibility for Colorado is getting shaky too and an angry Oregon State team won't offer any first aid. Not for nothing, we did like Arizona last week as our 5* Best Bet, and we thank our friend in Corvallis, OSU West Head Coach Jonathan Smith for the assistance. His decision to fake a field goal on the first half's final play rather than take the chip shot failed and what do you know, the Beavers lost to UA by three. They pushed Arizona all over the field too, outgaining them by 407-374. Our man John Conzano of Bald Faced Truth wrote there is a "field goal allergy" in the state of Oregon and apparently the vaccine hasn't reached Corvallis yet. The old adage of "don't think, you're hurting the team" applies to coaches too and Smith whiffed on the Risk v. Reward. Now, back to our show…In this series, Oregon State is 3-1 in the last four and **9-1 ATS** as a conference road favorite of 7 or greater. We are willing to overlook the Beavers brain fart… just this one time. **FYI: The Pac-12 has the most teams (6) in the initial CFP Top 25 Rankings.**

UTAH over Arizona State by 16
There are no more JV football teams at the NCAA level, but you wouldn't have known it based on the way Utah looked versus Oregon last week. That was a Uteless performance by Kyle Whittingham's team, at home no less in the 35-6 drilling by the Ducks. It was the first time since 2018 Utah didn't find the end zone, it was the end of an 18-game home winning streak and pretty much the end of any Pac-12 title game hopes. Only one way to go from here and 2-6/1-4 Arizona State is just the doormat for Utah to trod on. Or are they? To be fair, ASU did topple the sinking Washington State ship 38-27 last week, doubling their average points per game total, but the Sun Devils are the only Pac-12 team without a road win (0-2) but they are **8-1 ATS** as a conference road dog of 10 or greater. In this series, ASU is **3-0 ATS** in the last three but that flies in the face of Utah being **8-1 ATS** when coming off a home dog loss, plus 24-4 SU and 15-10-1 ATS at Rice-Eccles when coming off a home loss. Last week was a rough one for the Utes when they officially put injured QB Cam Rising's season to

sleep, ending any speculation about his returning in 2023. Utah is too good to trip up like they did last week again, and we know Oregon, we served with Oregon and Arizona State, you are not Oregon.

AIR FORCE over Army by 28
Pretty simple orders for Air Force – win and they keep the Commander-in-Chief's trophy for a second straight year and quite frankly, we can't envision Army slowing them down. AFA has shown a mean streak defensively this year and the West Pointers, while running a similar offense, don't pose the threat the Flyboys do on the ground. AFA is second in the nation in rushing, ninth in PPG allowed and hitting on 51.5% of third downs. Army is **1-7 ATS** when coming off a loss and last week just wasn't an ordinary loss. The 21-14 defeat handed out by UMass was called "a new low" by none other than GoBlackKnights.com. The Knights of the Hudson are also 2-5 ATS when coming off a loss vs a team coming off a win. Air Force is 7-1 ATS when favored if favored in the previous game. What really gets us standing at attention is this: undefeated military teams are 18-2 SU and 14-5-1 ATS against fellow military troops including **8-0 SU and 7-1 ATS** against teams that give up 25.5 PPG or more, and Army lands right on the line. 17th ranked Air Force has four games remaining to polish off an undefeated regular season, something they have not done since 1958's 9-0-2 mark. In a world of NIL's, super conferences and coaches who are the highest paid public employees in their state, it's hard not to root for Air Force to finish the deal.

Ucla over ARIZONA by 7
The Bruins calmly waded through the hype last week to dominate Colorado and Chip Kelly's team won't take the Arizona week to pay themselves compliments. All Kelly has to do is remind them of last year's 34-28 loss to the Wildcats as a 20-point favorite in Pasadena to snap the room awake. The 6-2 / 3-2 Bruins do rather well outside of the Rose Bowl, **7-1 ATS** as road favorites and 8-1 ATS as a favorite after taking points in its last game. You don't normally equate tough defense with Chip Kelly or UCLA, but the Bruins are giving up just 15 PPG while scoring twice that. Offense from Kelly's Heroes we expect and that we're getting at 467 YPG pace, top 20 in the nation. We love what Jedd Fisch has going on in Tucson, he even ignored a healthy Jayden de Laura and stuck with RS-Freshman QB Noah Fifita, who has delivered three straight solid performances since de Laura suffered an ankle injury, throwing for eight scores and 924 yards. However, the sportsbook numbers are screaming against UA. 3-8 SUATS in the series and a frightening **0-5 ATS** if greater than .600. "Get Out" wasn't as scary as Arizona's **0-7 ATS** record when both teams are coming off W's. The Wildcats are on the cusp of bowl eligibility but we're not expecting any positive movement in this matchup, not with Arizona **0-5 ATS** trying for a second straight home underdog win and not with UCLA poised to gain vengeance. Don't let Arizona's scrappy season hypnotize you into a Sunken Place.

OREGON over California by 28
Cal had their chance, they threw absolutely every kitchen sink in Berkeley, California at the USC Trojans and they still lost. It was the kind of game someone living on the East Coast went to bed absolutely certain Cal had won the game…until they opened the Sunday Papers. It came down to a two-point try with 1:04 to go that didn't connect in a wild fourth quarter which saw USC outscore Cal 21-13. It gets worse for the GB's as they head into Eugene against an Oregon Ducks' team that made mincemeat out of Utah, in Utah. Traditionally taking on the Trojans has caused some post-game angst, as the Golden Bears are 2-7 ATS the last nine games after USC. Put Cal on the road, toss a big number at them and the Bears run, run, run away, going 3-11 ATS as conference road dog of 14 or greater and you wouldn't be alone wondering what's left in the Golden Bears tanks after the SC loss. Oregon has gone 5-0 ATS against teams coming at them with double conference revenge in mind and unlike Cal, which seemingly can't handle the Trojans in a cracked rearview mirror, Oregon loves looking into the future, going 20-6 SU and 21-5 ATS prior to tangling with Tommy Trojan. This includes a very healthy **7-0 SUATS** vs teams that allow 30 or more PPG. The Ducks are third in scoring, second in total offense, 18th in points allowed and somehow third in the Pac-12 thanks to their only loss of the season, at Washington. They may be the best in the conference, may have the best QB in the conference as Bo Nix has a 21:1 TD/INT ratio and the devastating Bucky Irving toting the rock. We feel if they get another shot at UW, the outcome will be quite different.

(continued on next page)

5★ BEST BET

USC over Washington by 10

Right on cue, it's time to dish on the Huskies, who may be slowly coming apart as the season rolls on. UW was outgained in each of the last three games. QB Michael Penix Jr. continues to put up obscene numbers, but he has thrown picks in each of the last three games. Washington also finds itself in a rare spot these days, a road favorite at USC. The Huskies are 2-8 ATS as road chalk, 3-8 ATS in the last 11 against Pac 12 foes .666 or better in the W and L column and in their last four games UDub is 0-3-1 ATS. This is an historic point spread, which will be explained very shortly. In UW-USC history, the Trojans are 8-2-1 ATS when the underdog. As a Coliseum dog, the Men of Troy are 16-10-1 ATS including 7-3 ATS vs. the undefeated. SC knows it was extremely fortunate to avoid the embarrassment of losing to Cal and among the sportsbooks, the Wise Guys know the Trojans are riding an 0-6 ATS streak. In a perfect world this game turns into a wild, high scoring battle between the reigning Heisman Winner Caleb Williams, and Penix Jr, who drifts in and out of the front-runner position. Take the Trojans and you will watch knowing plunging history is being made Saturday…USC HC Lincoln Riley is a home underdog for the first time in his career. You may be anticipating something historic is building. Riley is **40-3 ATS** in his career at home. As the late radio host Paul Harvey used to say…" Now, it's time for The Rest of The Story", a history making version of **THE CLINCHER: Lincoln Riley is 4-0 SU vs unbeaten conference opponents and 3-0 ATS as a conference dog.** Not even he can complain about that positivity. What's that? Phone call on Line 1 from Los Angeles?

WASHINGTON STATE over Stanford by 20

Stanford arrives on the Wazzu schedule just in time to catch a falling star. The Pullman Cougars are on a four-game losing streak after starting 4-0, including an 11-point beating by Arizona State last week, just the second win of the year for the Sun Devils. QB Cameron Ward is still putting up numbers but not touchdowns. During the losing skein Ward has just three TD tosses while being sacked 14 times. Stanford is warming up a bit from its Dance with The Dead, having won ATS and In the Stats in the last two games, but showing a pulse doesn't mean the Tree is alive and well. In fact, betting on the Tree led to a forest fire that burnt through your money if you wagered on Stanford in the last five years. 14-33 ATS is the ashes of the downfall of Cardinal football in that time, and that, coupled with WSU being **10-1 ATS** at home off consecutive road games and a **6-0 SUATS** mark in this series wraps it all up for us. Even someone with a degree from Bishop Sycamore High can figure this one out. Wait, do they have degrees there? Or a graduating class? Or… classes?

SAN DIEGO STATE over Utah State by 3

Both teams are having bummer seasons, and both teams are eyeing this game as a key step towards keeping bowl eligibility alive. The road is a lonely place for the Aggies, with just a one-point win at UConn their lone happy ride back to Logan. The Ags are 1-7 ATS on the road lately and a dramatically terrible **0-6 ATS** in Mountain West roadies. USU can score with the best of them, averaging 35.3 per game, and give up points with the worst of them, surrendering 34 per. We have not forgotten SDSU's 6-0 loss to Nevada two weeks ago, we predicted it, but the Fighting Donnel Pumphrey's are 12-5 ATS as home dogs coming off a loss and are **6-1 SUATS** coming off a rest week. We've done all we can to guide you. As Frank Sinatra once sang in the haunting ballad "Angel Eyes" …excuse me while I…disappear.

Charlotte over TULSA by 4

Just when our loyal readers were wondering where the ESPN Minus Game of the Week was…Trick or Treat! The Golden Hurricane season has run out of air with them being **1-8 ATS** in conference play of late plus a despair inducing 1-9 ATS when coming off a loss. Tulsa has plenty of practice with that lately, having dropped their last three games while giving up 20, then 42, then a not-so-nice 69 points, plus 369, 512 and 622 yards respectively. We must give them the Rodney Dangerfield treatment here. Charlotte is oddly good on the road when points are involved (and when aren't they) …the 49ers are **6-0 ATS** in the doghouse lately plus a convincing 8-2 SU and **9-1 ATS** when both teams are coming off SU underdog losses. We openly mocked Iowa-

Northwestern earlier, but these teams combine for 36.8 PPG thereby clinching MGOTW honors.

IOWA STATE over Kansas by 6

We would like to thank Kansas for coming through as one of the Playbook Best Bets last week. Their upset over then unbeaten Oklahoma earned a well-deserved post-game field storming and landed KU in the CFP Top 25 for the first time ever, at No. 21. However, we are not a sentimental bunch and all the faith we had in KU's HC Lance Leopold in Lawrence does not travel well outside Lawrence. Leopold is 2-5 SUATS away in Big 12 games when coming off an SU underdog win, including **3-0 SUATS** against foes coming off a win. We're also doubtful the Jayhawks have the kind of emotional fire for a second straight game after ending an 18-game losing streak vs. OU. Kansas is also down to the nub for conference top seed, sitting one game back another "Beast of Burden" that they may not be able to get an "Emotional Rescue" out of. Iowa State has picked up three straight SUATS victories and after a slow start ISU is in a five-way tie for B12 superiority with OU, Texas, K. State and Oklahoma State. In the series, the Cyclones are 4-18 SU when playing for revenge, but a nifty 9-2 SU and 7-4 ATS, including **5-0 SU and 4-1 ATS** at home. Who would have guessed a revamped Big 12 and a collapsing Pac-12 would be the most compelling stories in college football this season? This Could Be the Last Time.

Louisiana over ARKANSAS STATE by 8

UL jumps into the bowling pool with a W in Jonesboro but they have hurdles Edwin Moses would have a hard time with, **0-7 ATS** when coming off a win and **0-5 ATS** in games when both teams arrive off a SUATS win. Before you think we're about to unload Arkansas State propaganda, the Red Wolves are on a five-game SU series losing streak and **1-6 ATS** in their last seven outings as a home dog. These squads are in a four-way tie for second in the Sun Belt West, just one back of Troy so there's a chance one of these teams will vie for the conference title. The player to watch here is dual threat UL quarterback Zeon Chriss, who only averages 150 yards passing per game, but chips in 68 per game with his legs as part of a 214 yards per game rushing average. Simple math, if ASU stops the run, they will likely win. Simpler math…0 dollars bet on this game = 0% interest in this game. You're on your own in a game most in the state of Louisiana are ignoring because…

ALABAMA over Lsu by 3

These two are getting it on in Tuscaloosa. The winner of this game has made the SEC Championship game in 10 of the last 12 seasons and it shapes up as a classic confrontation between offense and defense. LSU leads the country with 47.4 PPG and 552.9 yards per game. They've torched defenses for more than 500 yards in seven straight games and even Bama's Boss Nick Saban admits Tigers' QB Jayden Daniels has played his way into the Heisman discussion. Daniels has 25 TD tosses, 2.573 air yards, five rushing TD's and just three picks. He carried LSU to their 32-31 overtime win in Baton Rouge last year including the winning touchdown and two-point conversion. Bama is 4-2 in the last six in SEC revenge matchups, plus the Tide is 24-4 SU but 11-17 ATS as a home favorite when coming off back-to-back home games. As a visitor, LSU poops in your fridge after eating a whole wheel of cheese, going **6-1 ATS** in their last seven roadies, and add 8-3-2 ATS away. That number includes a most impressive **5-0-2 ATS** as a dog of seven or less. Oh, but call now and we will toss in LSU's 9-2 ATS mark in their last 11 road games and **6-0 ATS** with rest in the last five years. Heck, even Brian Kelly benefits from a nap now and then, the BK Broiler is 8-2 ATS as a conference road underdog off a bye. After all this, we're still favoring Bama by a wee bit? The answer is obvious, but we'll get to that after we tell you LSU is missing three starters in the secondary and a key run stopper in DT Mekhi Wingo, lost for the year after undergoing surgery. Those defensive holes may be the panacea Alabama's inconsistent quarterbacking needs and without Wingo, perhaps the porous Tide OL can keep Jalen Milroe upright. The Tide has surrendered an alarming 30 sacks this season, just one fewer than the Alabama defense has earned this year. Time for Captain Obvious to put down his suitcase and remind you the Nicktator is 157-32 SU and 106-80-3 ATS in his SEC history. All we need is to bring back Uncle Verne to call this one in primetime on CBS.

MEMPHIS over South Florida by 10

USF has been one of the happier stories in the game, and them being a great story at 4-4 shows how low expectations have fallen in Tampa.

Memphis may be a two-TD favorite on reputation alone because the **MIDWEEK ALERT** put down the Rendezvous Ribs in time to warn us the Tigers are 3-5 In the Stats and a strange but true **1-8 ATS** as a favorite when favored last game. This is a big conference game for Memphis, which sits a game out of first at 3-1 in the conference. USF is playing for its first bowl game in seven years and are taking quite well to their usual underdog role, going 6-1 ATS and **4-0 ATS** in a conference affair. Memphis joined an elite group of CFB programs by being bowl eligible for a tenth straight year and fittingly, it's Homecoming Week on the Tigers campus, a chance for the Tigers to celebrate themselves. Of course, in Memphis celebrating yourself too much can bring on a world of hurt. Much like our friends at AC/DC we're "Givin' The Dog a Bone" a song which most assuredly is NOT about college football gambling.

Utsa over NORTH TEXAS by 3

The 5-3 / 4-0 Roadrunners are much more dangerous than their overall record would indicate. With QB Frank Harris missing three games in September, they were averaging 10.3 points prior to the Week Six matchup at Temple. However, with the two-time CUSA Player of the Year back behind center, Harris promptly diced up the Owls for 338 yards and 3 TDs in a turnover-free performance, and UTSA and Harris have been on a roll ever since. They've averaged 41.7 points and 440 yards per game with him back in the lineup. HC Jeff Traylor is 18-4 SU (winning 12 straight) and 15-7 ATS In conference games, but we have reservations about going into Denton against a double dose of revenge today. Those pair of losses suffered last year by the Mean Green included a 48-27 trouncing in the CUSA title game. North Texas is **5-0 ATS** as a dog after taking points in their last game, but with their 133rd-ranked defense it may appear suicidal to back the Greenies this afternoon. Still, we think the points are the play today.

Smu over RICE by 3

The 4-4 Owls have visions of bowling for a second-straight year. They were very competitive with a good Tulane team on Saturday, falling just short of a win, 30-28. They are 7-3 SU and **10-0 ATS** after taking on the Green Wave and a long-term 35-14-3 ATS as conference home dogs dating back to 1995. They also fit like a bug in a rug inside this week's **INCREDIBLE STAT** of the week on page 3. Meanwhile, the Ponies are looking more like Stallions right now as they have already become bowl-eligible before Halloween by continuing their tremendous statistical season and soaring past Tulsa, 69-10, using 6 running backs and 3 QB's to roll up 638 yards. They now bring a **7-1 ATS** Log into this contest in games when coming off a win versus foes coming off a loss. The problem is the fact that Rice gives them fits as SMU brings a **1-10 ATS** series record of late into this contest, along with a sobering 1-11 outright record in Houston, including **0-9 ATS** over the last nine visits. With that, we kindly say "no thank you".

4★ BEST BET

OKLAHOMA STATE over Oklahoma by 6

The Sooners are 4-0 ATS in the last four Bedlam confrontations, but plenty of the numbers going into this year's edition are not so pretty. Oklahoma is 4-15-1 as conference road chalk of 6 points or more, 1-4 against the number in Game 9, and 1-4 versus single conference revenge. They could not slow down a Kansas ground attack last Saturday that was averaging slightly over 200 YPG going into last week's 38-33 upset, giving up 269 yards and ultimately, the game-winning score in the final minute by Devin Neal. Now, they must try to stop the Cowboys' current version of Barry Sanders, RB Ollie Gordon II, who is literally "en fuego". The sophomore has rushed for over 100 yards in five straight contests, including 282 against West Virginia and 271 versus Cincy in the last two games. On the other side of the coin, the Cowpokes are **8-0 ATS** as home dogs of less than 14 points and **6-0 ATS** w/ single conference revenge. Additionally, Okie State is 5-1 ATS in their last six matchups with a conference opponent. As always, head coach Mike Gundy is there to provide **THE CLINCHER: The Cowboys are 18-10 SU and 18-9-1 ATS at home under Gundy against foes with a better win percentage, including 12-2 SUATS the last fourteen contests.**
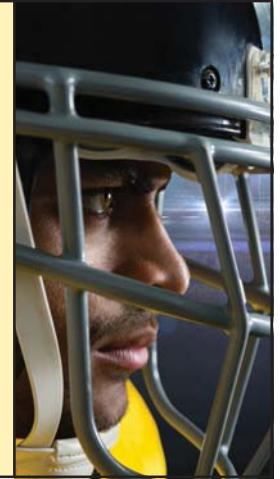
UAB over Fla Atlantic by 3

The Owls bring less-than-imposing numbers into this fray, starting with an **0-11 ATS** ledger when coming off a double-digit win. They are also **0-6 ATS** when favored for the second game in a row. We like Tom Herman as a head coach but not with black clouds like these lingering overhead. On the flip side, the 2-6 Blazers realize they need to win out in order to take new head coach Trent Dilfer to the post-season, and that's not likely – but don't tell them. Dilfer has his players highly motivated, but as you might expect, the former Super Bowl QB is not a defensive genius, and his Blazers are allowing 37.6 points per game. However, they are **10-2 ATS** when coming off a double-digit SUATS loss, as well as **4-0 ATS** in games when they are off a loss and the opponent is off a win. We see only one side here.

SOUTHERN MISS over UL Monroe by 1

The dregs of the Sun Belt Conference go to war in this battle of last place squads when the 2-6 / 0-5 Warhawks invade Hattiesburg to face 1-7 / 0-5 Southern Miss. If you're looking for tickets to this death match, you'd better hurry as both schools hope to have fans showing up in droves. Okay, now that reality has settled in, you may want to be aware that ULM is riding a 1-23 SU and 8-16 ATS skein as a visitor since 2019. To be honest, neither of these paperweights warrant consideration, especially so in the case of the Eagles, as they are **0-7 ATS** as a home favorite when coming off a loss. Sorry, but you're on your own here. If you find yourself taking a strong position in this scrimmage, get some help.

MISSISSIPPI STATE over Kentucky by 1

The Wildcats bring in a lousy **1-8 ATS** log in games when both teams are coming off losses as a dog. Worse, they are riding a 3-game losing streak after opening the season 5-0. FYI: teams in this exact role are 5-4 SU but only 3-6 ATS since 1990 when facing fellow FBS foes, including **0-4 ATS** in conference games on the road. That puts the stop sign up on any KY jelly we were entertaining. Also, Kentucky head coach Mark Stoops is just 2-7 SUATS in conference games when coming off losses in his last three games. Meanwhile, Bulldogs have burned a lot of money under first-year head coach Zach Arnett at 1-6 ATS this season, but they are 4-4 'In The Stats' and are 3-2 outright at home in 2023, as well at 10-4 the past two seasons. Also, consider that the host in this series is **9-0 ATS**. Will Rogers (the MSU quarterback, not the comedian) suffered a shoulder injury in the Western Michigan game and sat out the last two weeks, so check his status. If he is back, you can rest assured, we'll be on the take. **FYI: The 7-0 Bulldogs were the first team to land a No. 1 ranking in the CFP Top 25 Rankings, behind QB Dak Prescott, but finished No. 7 in the final playoff rankings.**

Arkansas over FLORIDA by 6

The Gators got slapped around at the Cocktail Party last week by Georgia, kind of like the freshman that mouthed off at the pretty girls and got taken to the woodshed by the upperclassmen. Now they host the Razorbacks owning a sloppy 2-6 ATS mark when laying points

under Billy Napier. Toss in an 0-6 ATS record in their last six roles as home favorites of less than 7 points and a **1-9-1 ATS** mark in Game 9 and we could be looking at another loss for the reptiles. Especially since we are focusing on the Pigs' **10-0 ATS record** as a dog when favored in their previous game. Arky is also 4-1 with rest, along with 7-3 as road pups of less than a TD. Sam Pittman is 16-7 ATS as an underdog dog, including **5-0 ATS** against foes coming off a loss. Look for the Hogs 6-game losing skid to come to an end here.

GEORGIA over **Missouri** by 10

The truth is, the Tigers are basically playing with house money at this point in the season and, hey, not only are they a bonafide **SMART BOX** play, but they are also 2-0 SUATS against undefeated foes this campaign. Mizzou has covered 6 of the last eight meetings in this series and is **6-1 ATS** with rest when coming off a SU win. Meanwhile, the Dawgs are 7-1 as conference home favorites of less than 17 points, but a horrible 2-9 ATS at home versus conference opposition with rest. It appears that a case can be made for both teams, but the feeling here is that the nooses will be getting tighter and tighter around the necks of the two-time undefeated champs. The Bulldogs were fine last week without Brock Bowers – that wasn't the issue – but honestly, this is a just a closer matchup of talent than many people realize. **FYI: Despite winning back-to-back national Championships, Georgia opened at No. 2 behind Ohio State in the initial CFP Top 25 Rankings for 2023.**

Texas A&M over OLE MISS by 3

The 7-1 / 4-1 Rebs are just one game in back of Bama in the rugged SEC West but bring a weak **0-5 ATS** record going against double conference revenge. They are also **1-5 ATS** as conference home favorites of less than 7 points… and a dismal **1-5 ATS** ledger in last nine games as conference home chalk. They do have the nation's 11th-ranked offense and are starting to look more and more like some recent juggernauts. As for Jimbo Fisher's troops, we'll ignore Tammy's 0-7 ATS mark when seeking double conference revenge exact, and its porous 2-12 ATS mark as conference road dogs of less than 8 points and instead, focus on its 4th-ranked overall defense (244 net YPG). They are, however, **4-0 ATS** in games when coming off a win-no-cover. In addition, the Well-Oiled Machine chips in noting that Jimbo brings a **42-7 SU** and 29-19 ATS career record into this game when coming off a double-digit conference win, including 11-3 SU and 9-5 ATS with the Aggies. A&M also owns a 3-1-1 ATS mark in the last 5 games of this series. We call for the upset.

Kansas State over TEXAS by 3

With five teams, including these two, tied atop the Big 12 at 4-1 this season, this game is looking more and more like a warmup for the Big 12 title game next week. The Wildcats are 5-1 in Game 9 and 9-3 ATS versus.750 or better SEC foes. We love the coaching matchup here as KSU's Chris Kleiman holds all the edges, starting with a 34-19-1 ATS overall mark since joining the Wildcats in 2019, including 13-4 SU and 12-4-1 ATS against Big 12 foes coming off a SUATS win (8-0 SUATS over the last two seasons). On the downside, K-State has lost six straight times in this series. However, the Cats will be facing the Longhorns' freshman back-up QB in Maalik Murphy, who looked quite good in the crushing last week of BYU. Some bad numbers emerge on the Texas side of the ledger, including 3-6 as favorites of less than 7 points, while Steve Sarkisian is 23-24 SU and 20-27 ATS when coming off a SUATS win, including 2-8 ATS versus .750 or greater opponents. Finally, confidence is high right now for Kleiman's team, as they shut-out Houston last week, 41-0. Another upset is on the agenda in Austin for us.

Auburn over VANDERBILT by 16

The Tigers hold substantial edges in this contest, including a **6-1 ATS** mark in games when coming off a SUATS win against foes off a SUATS loss. They are also **9-0 ATS** as road favorites of more than 3 points when taking on losing foes. Hugh Freeze's troops are coming off a solid win, as they got out to a 24-3 halftime lead at Jordan-Hare Stadium and held on for a 27-13 victory over Mississippi State to snap a four-game losing streak. Freeze has apparently abandoned his tendency to alternate quarterbacks, playing Payton Thorne for all but three plays, and Thorne responded with three TD passes. Meanwhile, the Commodores enter on a **1-8 ATS** losing slide and look to be going nowhere fast. There's only one side to look at here, especially with Aubbie head coach Freeze a known cripple-shooter (27-6 SU and 23-10 ATS in his career in lined games against sub .333 foes).

NEVADA over Hawaii by 1

The Warriors take their act to Sin City to take on the 2-6 / 2-2 Wolfpack in a game that will not be moving the needle in the MWC this season. As you might imagine, both teams bring a boatload of bad numbers into the contest, starting with Hawaii's **2-12 ATS** mark on the conference road in Game Ten of the season, as well as their **1-10 ATS** mark in games before facing Air Force. The Rainbow Warriors lost their fourth game in a row last week and have now given up an average of 41 PPG in those defeats to drop to 2-7. On the flip side, Nevada won the stats battle for the first time (424-312) in their 24-17 defeat against Fresno State, but in the end, it was just another loss as the Wolf Pack could not punch it in from inside the 10 late in the fourth quarter, when Fresno intercepted QB Jayden Maiava in the endzone to preserve the win. Thanks to its dismal 1-7 ITS (In The Stats) log this season, the Pack finds itself inside this week's **SMART BOX** list of teams to fade as a favorite – they have a -155 net yards per game stat-log this season. A 3-9 SUATS mark as home favorites of fewer than 14 points in games in which it scored 34-plus points in its last contest wraps it up. If you have to – and only if you have to – take the points.

LIBERTY over Louisiana Tech by 13

The Flames find themselves with a two-game lead atop the Conference USA standings but have yet to beat the spread as double-digit conference home chalk when coming off a win (0-2 ATS) during their young FBS tenure. They are also just 3-9 ATS against teams with a losing record the past three seasons. The question begs: Can the Flames feel the heat from the pressure of remaining unbeaten at this stage of the season? If they're human, they do. Meanwhile, the 3-6 Bulldogs need to win each of their final three games to become bowl eligible for the first time in three seasons. That won't happen, though. Not with the gauntlet starting against the red-hot, undefeated Flames. For what it's worth, the Techsters previously owned a 7-year bowl skein but have fallen on hard times since Skip Holtz left the program and a finish with three consecutive losses will leave them mired at a 3-9 mark that will equal the finishes of the last two campaigns. That seems much more likely, but surprisingly, for a three-win team they've actually gained nearly as many yards as they've allowed this season.

NEW MEXICO STATE over Middle Tennessee by 7

The 2-6 blue smurfs are in danger of having their two-year bowl skein snapped as a 0-4 winless skein on the highway this season likely spells lights out for MTSU. They did hang tough against 8-0 Liberty last week but were outgained 541-463 and a 4th-quarter touchdown by the Flames broke a 35-35 tie and apparently, since they can't find a win on the road, it's time to start playing Taps for MTSU's season. On the flip side, who would have bet on the Aggies being a 6-win team at this stage as opposed to the Blue Raiders owning a 2-6 ledger? Perhaps only Jerry Kill, the NMSU head coach who continues to win at a rate no one expected after he stepped down at Minnesota in 2013 due to seizures. He bounced back to take the reins in Las Cruces last season and has taken what was a 4-20 team to new heights. They have out-gained six of the nine opponents they've faced this season and are **10-0 ATS** as favorites after taking points in their previous contest. Do you really want to fade that? Not us…

Unlv over NEW MEXICO by 14

The Runnin' Rebels are another team that has made major strides, going from 0 wins, to 2, to 5, to their current 6-win bowl-eligible bowl squad this year. With it, they are **7-1 ATS** when coming off a double-digit ATS win, as well as **6-1 ATS** in their last seven road games, not to mention a **6-1 ATS** ledger this season. There were some that were surprised the Marcos Arroyo was fired after last season with two years left on his contract, despite a 7-23 SU record, but bringing in Barry Odom last December was exactly the right move. Meanwhile, as you might imagine, the Lobos bring an array of losing trends into this game, including a **1-10 ATS** log in games when both teams are coming off a conference clash, as well as **1-10 ATS** when coming off a road game. We could go on and on, but you get the drift.

TEXAS STATE over Georgia Southern by 3

Meet two of our favorite Fun-in-the-Sun Belt squads this season. GSU has never dropped a game in this series (5-0 SU) but are just 7-13 ATS when coming off back-to-back wins since joining the loop in 2014, including **2-11 ATS** of late. However, if they can hold serve tonight, the 6-2 / 3-1 Eagles would win a spot in the CUSA championship

game because East Division leader James Madison is still ineligible to participate. As they like to say around these parts, the heat is on. Meanwhile, the 5-3 Bobcats are enjoying their finest season since joining the 'big boys' in 2013, needing just one more win to become bowl-eligible for the first time ever, currently 3-1 outright at home under first-year head coach G.J. Kinne. This team is 6-2 ITS (In The Stats) under his lead, and they've gone 7-4 SU and 7-2-1 ATS in games when coming off a double-digit defeat, including **5-0 ATS** as a dog of fewer than 20 points. It would be no surprise to see them shake the series goose-egg here tonight.

MICHIGAN over Purdue by 28

It's hard to say this is a dangerous situation for the Wolverines, but nevertheless, today's game with Purdue is sandwiched between a contest with rival MSU and a bigger game with PSU on deck. This is the biggest spread UM has laid in this series since at least 1980, but this is the end of the Wolves laying atop some of Mr. Pillow's products: after Penn State, a trip to Maryland and a visit from Ohio State awaits. Not that we would actually lay this sizable spread, but when we consider Michigan's 1-3 mark when coming off a shutout win and a 1-3 spread record before playing Penn State, we are more inclined to go with the big dog. Meanwhile, the Boilers are 5-0 away versus undefeated conference foes and 10-1 as Big Ten dogs of more than 20 points. The Makers bring good numbers into this contest, but it's difficult making a strong case against a team that is cheating its ass off by stealing signals. Still, hold your nose and take the points if you play it.

3★ BEST BET

Western Kentucky over UTEP by 5

We're not sure why the 4-4 / 2-2 Toppers are laying doubles here. Making matters worse, they are just 3-5 ITS (In The Stats) in their eight games this season, losing the stats an average of -69 net YPG. Next to UTEP's 5-4 ITS, WKU brings the No. 131 overall-ranked defense into this battle, which pales in comparison with El Paso's No. 84 stop unit. The 3-6 / 2-2 Miners are just a half game in back of WKU in the CUSA and they are coming off an exciting win over Sam Houston State where they brought home a 37-34 victory by kicking a field goal with 4 seconds to play. It's not like they are bragging about a win over the winless Bearkats, but SHSU has given several teams – including Air Force, Liberty, and Jacksonville State (a combined 23-2) – all they could handle this season. We'll look to the stats edge UTEP holds here today, along with its **5-0 ATS** log as a double-digit dog with rest and take all we can get.

FRESNO STATE over Boise State by 8

The Bulldogs bring an **8-1 ATS** mark into this contest when arriving off a win-no-cover in their last game and when facing a foe coming off a SUATS favorite win. They are also 7-2 SU and 6-3 ATS at home in conference games when coming off a home game, including **5-0 SUATS** when coming off an ATS loss of more than 3 points. QB Mikey Keene has been a revelation since transferring from UCF, and the sophomore threw three TD passes in the third quarter to lead Fresno back from a 17-7 halftime deficit to a 31-24 victory over UNLV on Saturday. Meanwhile, the Broncos are **0-5 ATS** in their last five travelers, and **1-7 ATS** when coming off a double-digit spread win.

They evened up their ledger at 4-4 this season against Wyoming, but they remain a wobbly **0-3-1 ATS** away from home this campaign. Only the fact that they will likely be out to avenge last year's 12-point home loss gives us a bit of hesitation, but with both teams tied at 3-1 in the MWC and trailing 5-0 Air Force, Fresno's 7-1 overall body of work tells us who the better team is.

PRO FOOTBALL

Thursday, November 2

Tennessee over PITTSBURGH by 4

Rookie QB Will Levis - in his NFL debut - completed 19-of-29 passes for 238 yards, 4 touchdowns, and 0 interceptions against the Falcons last week. Suddenly the buzz in Nashville is they have finally found their quarterback. In three quarters, Levis doubled the two touchdowns Ryan Tannehill has thrown in six starts this season. In fact, Week Eight chewed up and spit out five starting quarterbacks in the nine-game early slate - including Kenny Pickett (Steelers, ribs), Kirk Cousins (Vikings, Achilles heel, Vikings), Matthew Stafford (Los Angeles Rams, thumb), Tyrod Taylor (New York Giants, ribs) and Desmond Ridder (Falcons, concussion) - who failed to finish games they started. Before we anoint Levin into the Titans' Hall of Fame, it should be noted that one game does not make a career. Just ask Kenny Pickett and Mitchell Tribusky, neither of whom is capable of quarterbacking a decent attack. The Steelers' defense essentially has to win every week. Think not? Pittsburgh has four wins, and the Black-and-Gold's offense has scored 12, 23, 17, and 24 points, respectively, in each – or an average average of 19 points per contest. It's brutal. In fact, it's eerily similar to another Black-and-Gold college football offense we've come to despise this season – Iowa. With it, the 3-4 Titans bring the better offense and the better defense into this fray against the 4-3 Steelers. With Tennessee a tidy **7-0-1 ATS** in Game Eight's the past eight seasons and the Burgers **0-7 ATS** as non-division home chalk of -3 or more points, you know where we're going here.

Sunday, November 5

Kansas City over Miami by 6

If you're Andy Reid, you know what to do. Get Taylor Swift on the first plane to Frankfurt, Germany, this weekend for an appearance at this game. And why not. The proof is in the pudding: Kansas City was 4-0 in the previous four games in which she was in attendance to watch boyfriend Travis Kelce and the Chiefs. She was nowhere to be seen in last week's stunning 24-9 loss at Denver, where KC saw its 16-game

winning streak over the Broncos come to a crashing halt – sans Swiftie, of course. After all, Denver held its AFC West rival to a 0-3 mark in red-zone attempts, and Kansas City did not score a touchdown for the first time since Week 7 of the 2021 season. FYI: The Chiefs scored 20 and 13-points respectively in the two games following the touchdown drought. So, now that QB Patrick Mahomes' streak of 29 consecutive games with a TD pass also came to an end, can we expect a return to the norm? We do know that Mahomes' bad pass rate is just 8.8%, the lowest of his career. Mahomes is also dealing with the highest drop rate (6.1%) of his career, and the highest-pressure rate (22.2%) since his first full season as a starter. And then there is this: Andy is a not-so-dandy 8-12 SU and 7-12-1 ATS versus the Dolphins, including 4-8 SU and 3-9 ATS when the Fish sport a winning record. Like Kansas City, Miami enters with a 6-2 record. However, under 2nd-year head coach Mike McDaniel, the Dolphins are 7-0 SU and 6-0-1 ATS against sub .333 opponents, but only 2-8 SU and 4-6 ATS against .500 or greater opposition. The bottom line is the Chiefs check the latter box, and given the fact that you are generally as good as the company you keep, Featherhead freaks can take solace knowing Reid is 39-24 ATS in his NFL career in games following a SU favorite loss, including 22-9 SU and 21-10 ATS as a favorite of 7 or fewer points, including **6-0 ATS** the last six games. Editor's Note: These two teams are currently seeded No. 1 and 2 in the AFC Playoff Picture. Per Stathead.com – there has never been a Europe game between two teams that finished a season with a .700 winning percentage or better. Be sure to get up early and watch football over scrambled eggs and coffee.

Minnesota over ATLANTA by 3

Vikings QB Kirk Cousins tore his Achilles heel last week, and like Aaron Rodgers, he's out for the season. It's a shame, considering that entering Week 8, he was having a career year leading the NFL in passing touchdowns (16) and ranked second in passing yards (2,057). Enter recently acquired QB Joshua Dobbs, the team's new backup to rookie fifth-rounder Jaren Hall from BYU, who hurled 31 TD passes for the Cougars last season, as Hall makes his first start in the NFL today. And regarding backup quarterbacks, Taylor Heinicke sparked the Falcons' offense after replacing Desmond Ridder in the third quarter last week. Ridder left the game to be evaluated for a concussion but did not return upon being cleared. Atlanta head coach Arthur Smith named Heinicke (2-6-1 SUATS versus .500 or greater foes) the staring signal caller in today's game, and it's understandable given Ridder's performances in non-division (3-5 SU and **0-8 ATS**) and division (3-1 SU and **4-0 ATS**) games in his formative years with the Falcons. Coupled with the Birds' recent **0-10 ATS** in their last ten non-division clashes,

Minnesota's 4-1 SUATS mark in its last five games in this series, you know where we'll be.

3★ BEST BET

CLEVELAND over Arizona by 4

Cleveland's knife-in-the-heart loss at Seattle last week dropped the Browns to 4-3. Suddenly it's a precarious position considering the Bengals and Steelers are also 4-3. It was a missed opportunity not to stay above at least and with the way Joe Burrow and Co. are now performing, to distance themselves from the surging Bengals. However, here's a surprise: If the NFL playoffs were to start this week, the Falcons would be the No. 4 seed in the NFC, and the Browns No. 7 in the AFC. Our concern is Cleveland's psyche after the malady in Seattle, as the Brownies are just 6-11 ATS under Kevin Stefanski as a favorite when coming off a one-score game (although 11-6 outright) They are also just 7-13 ATS as home chalk under his lead. Arizona (1-7) was competitive early in the season, but that hasn't been the case over the past month. None of the Cardinals' last five defeats have been by less than two scores. Meaning first-year head coach Jonathan Gannon – a Cleveland native who attended football powerhouse St. Ignatius high school - will look to rely on his 4-1 ATS mark with the Cardinals in non-division games today. That and Cleveland's decrepit **1-13 ATS** record in ages when coming off a non-division road. Make this a take.

LA Rams over GREEN BAY by 3

Back in the day, this would have been must-watch TV. All it deserves today is a mention on the NFL Red Zone. With a lot of weapons and an offensive minded head coach, the thought was perhaps Jordan Love would be able to continue Green Bay's multi-decade run of great quarterback play. Instead, only three qualified QBs have a worse passer rating than Jordan Love. Only four QBs in Packers history have had a worse passer rating index than Love. Excluding Brett Hundley, it's been 22 years since the last time Green Bay got such a poor performance from their Week 1 starting quarterback.Talk about a night at Lambeau Field Ina similar vein, things haven't ebeen the same in Los Angeles since the Rams won the Super Bowl three years ago, and then paid the price for overloading on expensive talent. The hard heads arrive in Wisconsin knowing they own the better offense and the better defense n ths contest. Meanwhile, the Packers are **1-7 ATS** as a favorite after dressing up as a favorite in the last game, and 1-4 ATS after hosting a division rival. You know where we're going here.

Tampa Bay over HOUSTON by 3

So how important is this game for the Bucs? The Falcons and Saints, both 4-4, are now tied for first place, with Tampa Bay a half-game back at 3-4. So, yes, it's mighty important. On the opposite side of the field sit the Houston Texans, as deflated as a hot air balloon that just ran out of hot air after granting Carolina its maiden win of the season last week. The Well-Oiled Machine notes that teams going home after losing to a 0-6 or worse team are just 4-7 ATS when taking on a sub.444 opponent. Making matters worse, the Texans bring a **1-6 ATS** record to the fight in their last eight games as a favorite. With the Bucs 5-1 ATS in the second of non-conference roadies, we'll fade the fizzling Texans here.

NEW ENGLAND over Washington by 7

Pity the Commandeers. They were swept by the Eagles this season in games in which Washington scored over 30 points in each contest. Then they gave away he farm at the NFL trade deadline when they sent former first-round DL Chase Young and Montez Sweat as the new Josh Harris regime took hold. One wonders what state of mind they will be in this week (that would be Massachusetts, in case they get turned around) when they tackle the Patriots. What we know for sure is they are going up against it with a 1-9 ATS record after hosting a division game, as well as 1-9 ATS in their last ten games against the AFDC East. We wish there were better numbers to report on the Patriots, but we're still looking. Until we find them, we'll stay on the Commander fade train. THIS JUST IN: The Pats are 14-3 SU and 12-4-1 ATS laying points the past three seasons. Enough said.

NEW ORLEANS over Chicago by 10

Bears backup QB Tyson Bagent (25/37, 232, 0, 2) performed pretty much as expected in last week's 30-13 crushing at the hands of the Chargers. It was good enough, though, to earn another starting opportunity this week. Our main concern is, like a RING door alarm, the Saints now have film on him. It's a major reason NFL QBs making their second career start, the week after making their initial start the prior game, have struggled like a politician looking for the right words. With the Saints back on the right track – they've won the stats in each of their last four games – and 18-10 SU and 19-7-1 ATS against the NFC North, we'll be looking to fade a bad Bears bunch with its **1-7 ATS** road dog log of late.

CAROLINA over Indianapolis by 3

The high-scoring Colts (3–5) have somehow lost four home games, two of which came by one score, while another saw a fourth-quarter lead turn into a 10-point defeat. They enter this scrum in a lousy mood with a **1-8 ATS** mark as chalk, and a **1-7 ATS** ledger when coming off a non-division home game. The Panthers, fresh off the virgin win of the season last week, are 8-2 ATS when coming off a home dog win, as well as **6-1 ATS** in games in which both squads coming off non-division games. You know what to do here.

NY Giants over LAS VEGAS by 3

What a disaster, on both fronts, in this contest. It's safe to say the Giants and the Jets set football back a hundred years last Sunday in their 13-10 loss to the Jets. It's also safe to say that Josh McDaniels was likely to be the first jobseeker among NFL coaches this season, and now he is, following his pink slip on Wednesday this week. Also canned by Raiders' owner Mark Davis were GM Dave Ziegler and OC Mick Lombardi. Talk of a team in disarray. Sure, Jimmy G is back but he's now piloting a kamikaze team. On the other side of the playing field, the good news for the G-Men is the return of starting QB Daniel Jones, thought just a week ago to be finished for the season with a neck injury. Jones rides a 1-5 SU and 0-6 ATS losing skein in his last six starts but is 17-8 ATS as a road dog in this league, including **9-0 ATS** versus losing foes. Considering the Giants had more punts than points last week's ugly loss, his return is welcome with open arms. Given the G-Men's **4-0 ATS** record in the first of three-straight away games and 4-1 ATS log against foes coming off a Monday Night contest, there is only one way to look here today.

4★ BEST BET

Jalen Hurts, on an injured knee, led the Eagles to a hard-fought 38-31 win over the Commanders. The MVP candidate threw for 319 yards, 4 touchdowns, and 0 interceptions. Meanwhile, his go-to receiver, AJ Brown, became the first player in NFL history with at least 125 receiving yards in six consecutive games. It's a good thing Hurts was on his game, as the Eagle defenses allowed 472 yards in the game. However, there may be cause for concern, reports LegitFootball.com, as star rookie DT Jalen Carter, who is arguably the Eagles' best defensive player, left in the third quarter with a back injury and did not return. He is listed as questionable today. We all know that Dallas has 11 wins in a row at AT&T Stadium, the league's longest current run of dominance at home, but they are only 4-6 in their last 10 road games. However, they are also **6-1 SUATS** in their last seven division games as a road dog of fewer than 4 points. Mike McCarthy chips in with a 6-1 SU and 5-2 ATS mark in division games with a .500 or greater record with Dallas. The Cowboys enter this division duke out at **4-0 ATS** in the first of back-to-back division games, while first-place Philly is 5-12 ATS in division home games against avenging opponents, including 1-5 ATS when the Eagles sport a winning record. With revenge looming large, we roll it over to **THE CLINCHER: Dallas QB Dak Prescott is 27-7 SU and 24-10 ATS in division games, including 7-1 SUATS during the first half of the season.**

Buffalo over CINCINNATI by 6

Last season the NFL was forced to cancel the pivotal Week 17 game between Buffalo and Cincinnati due to the terrifying injury to Damar Hamlin. With it, the league moved a potential AFC Championship matchup between Kansas City and Buffalo to a neutral site in Atlanta because the canceled game affected playoff seeding. The bottom line here is Buffalo takes the field tonight with a playoff-loss revenge chip on its shoulders to face a suddenly red-hot Cincinnati squad where they will dress up as a regular season dog for the first time in the last 30 games. Meanwhile, Joe Burrow completed 28 of 32 passes - a Bengals record 87.5% - and threw three touchdown passes in a decisive 31-17 win at San Francisco last week. He also had six carries for 43 yards; his prior season highs were four carries and 7 yards, all of which confirm the fact that his sore calf is back to good health. Buffalo has been struggling so much of the year, yet is only one game back of the Dolphins in the AFC East. Nevertheless, they'll take the field this evening knowing they are 4-1-1 ATS in their last six regular games against the AFC Central, as well as **13-1 ATS** in games when both teams arrive off SUATS wins. Yes, it's tough to step in front of Joey Blue-Green Eyes right now, but we feel the Bills are up to it.

Monday, November 6
5★ BEST BET

So how ugly was the Jets-Giants game last Sunday? Consider: The two teams combined for 445 yards of total offense. They converted just four of 34 third-down attempts, two per side. Punters Thomas Morstead and Jamie Gillan combined for 24 punts for 1,078 yards. The Giants threw for -9 passing yards, the lowest mark any team has had since 2000. They also teamed to produce a paltry 3.8 yards per play. The team's leading receivers were tight end Darren Waller and running back Matt Breida, who each had one catch for 4 yards. Simply put it can't get any worse than that … or could it? The Chargers rolled past Chicago last Sunday Night when QB Herbert completed 31-of-40 passes for 298 yards, 3 touchdowns, and 0 interceptions to put themselves back in the playoff picture (they currently rank No. 12 in the current playoff seeding, one game back of No. 7 Cleveland for the final spot). The Jets figure to comply behind a dour **1-7 ATS** mark in games when both teams were favored the previous contest. As usual, with added help from this week's TRIVIA TEASER on page , wrap thing up with **THE CLINCHER: The New York Jets are 2-9 SUATS in Game eight of the season, including 0-5 SUATS versus foes coming off a win.**

Catch The Buzz

THE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP: O/U STYLE

All games played on this week's NFL schedule are listed below. As always, the number listed <u>first</u> is the 'OVER' and the number listed <u>second</u> is the 'UNDER'. If you like what you see, there's much more – including *5 NFL O/U BEST BETS* – inside the **2023 Playbook 'TOTALS' TIPSHEET** by Victor King – the definitive weekly OU newsletter. A single issue is only $11.00. Rest-of-Season subscription is $79.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2023 "Totals Train"!
*This week's GAME 9 Playbook O/U TREND play: Seahawks @ Ravens '<u>UNDER</u>' the TOTAL'

2023 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK NINE

GAME MATCHUPS	KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
Tennessee (Open: 37) **PITTSBURGH**	8-2 OU Game 8... 5-2 OU in 1st of BB RG... but 0-5 OU vs AFC North... 1-4 OU bef non-conf RG... 2-4 OU Thursday RG 6-0 OU in 2nd of 3 straight HG... 4-1 OU on Thursdays... 4-2-1 OU L7 vs Ten (45.7)... 3-1 OU Game 8... but 0-4 OU aft Jac
Miami (52) **KANSAS CITY**	5-1 OU L6 vs AFC West... 9-3 OU L12 road games... 4-2 OU aft NE... 4-2 OU aft div HG... but 1-4 OU bef Bye 16-5 OU L22 road gms w/ OU < 56 pts... 3-1 OU l4 vs AFC East... but 1-5 OU non-div favs 5 < pts... 3-8 OU Game 9
Minnesota (41.5) **ATLANTA**	5-1 OU bef NOrl... 7-2 OU aft div RG... 8-3 OU Game 9... 4-2 OU 2nd of BB RG... but 0-2 OU aft GB... 1-3 OU L4 vs Atl (39.0) 7-3 OU bef Arz... 6-3 OU home vs NFC North... but 1-5 OU Game 9... 1-4 OU aft Ten... 1-3 OU home TY (40.8)
Seattle (43) **BALTIMORE**	1-5 OU Game 8... 1-5 OU aft Clev... 1-5 OU aft non-conf HG... 1-5 OU bef Wash... 1-3 OU L4 vs Balt (39.7) 0-6 OU bef div HG... 0-5 OU bef Clev... 0-5 OU as non-div HF's 4 > pts... 0-5 OU aft non-conf RG... 1-4 OU Game 9
Arizona (39.5) **CLEVELAND**	4-0 OU Game 9... 3-0 OU L3 vs Clev (55.6)... 4-1 OU L5 w/ OU 40.0 < pts... 6-3 OU bef Atl... but 2-6 OU as RD's 6 > pts 4-1 OU aft non-conf RG... but 0-3 OU Game 8... 0-3 OU aft Sea... 1-5-1 OU L7 non-conf HG... 1-4 OU bef Balt
La Rams (42) **GREEN BAY**	4-1 OU l5 as non-div RF's... but 0-5 OU bef div HG... 0-4 OU bef Bye... 1-4 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 1-3 OU Game 9 5-1 OU in 2nd of BB HG... 4-2 OU aft Min... 6-3 OU Game 8... but 0-3 OU aft div HG... 1-3 OU L4 vs Rams
Tampa Bay (39.5) **HOUSTON**	8-0 OU in 2nd of BB non-conf RG... 5-0 OU Game 8... but 1-6 OU aft Buf... 1-4 OU bef non-conf HG... 1-3 OU aft Thur gm 4-1 OU Game 8... but 0-3 OU 2nd of BB non-conf gms... 0-2 OU L2 vs TB (35.5)... 1-6 OU L7 vs NFC South... 1-5 OU bef Cinc
Washington (39) **NEW ENGLAND**	7-3 OU aft div HG... 4-2 OU in 1st of BB RG... but 1-4 OU Game 9... 1-4 OU L5 non-conf RG... 1-3 OU aft Phil 3-0 OU bef Neutral site gm... but 0-4 OU bef Colts... 1-8 OU non-div favs 3 < pts... 1-6 OU aft div RG... 1-4 OU Game 9
Chicago (41) **NEW ORLEANS**	3-0 OU aft non-conf RG... 2-0 OU L2 vs NOr (55.0)... 7-2 OU Game 9... 3-1 OU bef Thur HG... but 2-5 OU bef Caro 4-0 OU aft Ind... 4-0 OU off 3 straight NC gms... 4-1 OU non-div HF's 4 > pts... 6-2 OU L8 vs NFC North... but 1-3 OU Game 9
Indianapolis (43.5) **CAROLINA**	5-1 OU L6 non-conf RG... 4-1 OU aft allow 35 > pts... 4-1 OU l5 vs .300 < opp... 7-3 OU Game 9... but 1-4 OU aft non-conf HG 6-0 OU aft Hou... 5-1 OU bef Thur gm... 3-1 OU in 2nd of BB HG... but 3-10 OU L13 vs AFC South... 4-10 OU Game 8
Ny Giants (40.5) **LAS VEGAS**	3-1 OU bef Dal... but 1-8 OU L9 non-conf RG... 1-6 OU aft Jets... 2-9 OU vs opp off Mon gm... 1-4 OU aft score 10 < pts 8-2 OU Game 9... but 0-3 OU bef Jets... 1-4 OU aft Mon gm... 1-4 OU as non-div HF's < 4 pts... 2-6 OU vs NFC East
Dallas (46.5) **PHILADELPHIA**	6-1 OU vs .750 > opp... 5-1 OU aft score 35+ pts... 5-1 OU aft Rams... 4-1 OU L5 as div RD's... but 0-3 OU bef Giants 5-0 OU L5 vs Dal (62.0)... 2-0 OU bef Bye... 6-1 OU L7 div HG... 5-2 OU aft Wash... but 1-4 OU aft allow 30 > pts
Buffalo (46) **CINCINNATI**	8-1 OU aft TB... 6-1 OU Game 9... but 0-3 OU L3 vs Cin (34.0)... 1-8 OU L9 vs AFC North... 1-4 OU aft Thursday gm 4-1 OU in 1st of BB HG... but 1-5 OU aft SF... 1-4 OU vs opp off Thur gm... 1-4 OU L5 vs AFC East... 1-3 OU Game 8
La Chargers (43) **NY JETS**	6-1 OU aft score 30 > pts... but 0-5 OU last 5 gms... 0-4 OU on Mondays... 0-3 OU aft Chi... 2-7 OU away vs AFC East 7-2 OU L9 vs LAC... but 0-6 OU vs conf off non-conf gm... 2-8 OU bef LV... 1-3 OU aft NYG... 1-3 OU Monday HG
Bye Week **Bye Week**	Denver Broncos Detroit Lions
Bye Week **Bye Week**	Jacksonville Jaguars San Francisco 49ers

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

NCAA

Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF
54	Air Force	Mountain West	102	4.5
126	Akron	Mid-American	82	2
6	Alabama	Southeastern	121.5	6
86	Appalachian St	Sun Belt	94.5	4
34	Arizona	Pac-12	106.5	4.5
71	Arizona St	Pac-12	98	4
34	Arkansas	Southeastern	106.5	4.5
114	Arkansas St	Sun Belt	87	3.5
93	Army	Independent	93.5	3.5
29	Auburn	Southeastern	108	5
114	Ball St	Mid-American	87	2.5
54	Baylor	Big 12	102	4.5
50	Boise St	Mountain West	103.5	5
73	Boston College	Atlantic Coast	97.5	4.5
120	Bowling Green	Mid-American	86	2
118	Buffalo	Mid-American	86.5	3
54	BYU	Big 12	102	5
31	California	Pac-12	107	4
104	C Michigan	Mid-American	90	2.5
125	Charlotte	American Athletic	83	2.5
65	Cincinnati	American Athletic	100	5
17	Clemson	Atlantic Coast	115	5.5
104	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	90	3.5
71	Colorado	Pac-12	98	4.5
101	Colorado St	Mountain West	91	4.5
114	Connecticut	Independent	87	3
31	Duke	Atlantic Coast	107	3.5
112	East Carolina	American Athletic	88	4
114	E Michigan	Mid-American	87	2
34	Florida	Southeastern	106.5	5
88	Florida Atlantic	American Athletic	94	3
132	Florida Int'l	Conference USA	80	2.5
8	Florida St	Atlantic Coast	121	5
80	Fresno St	Mountain West	96	4.5
3	Georgia	Southeastern	123.5	6
80	Geo Southern	Sun Belt	96	2.5
86	Georgia St	Sun Belt	94.5	2
73	Georgia Tech	Atlantic Coast	97.5	4.5
128	Hawaii	Mountain West	81.5	5.5
69	Houston	Big 12	99	4.5
63	Illinois	Big Ten	101	4.5
88	Indiana	Big Ten	94	4.5
40	Iowa	Big Ten	105.5	5
43	Iowa St	Big 12	105	5
101	Jacksonville St	Conference USA	91	4.5
54	James Madison	Sun Belt	102	2.5
20	Kansas	Big 12	112	3.5
15	Kansas St	Big 12	116.5	5
133	Kent St	Mid-American	78	4.5
29	Kentucky	Southeastern	108	4
73	Liberty	Conference USA	97.5	4
104	Louisiana Tech	Conference USA	90	3
26	Louisville	Atlantic Coast	109	4.5
5	LSU	Southeastern	122.5	5.5
96	Marshall	Sun Belt	92	4
34	Maryland	Big Ten	106.5	4.5
64	Memphis	American Athletic	100.5	3
22	Miami (FL)	Atlantic Coast	111	4
77	Miami (OH)	Mid-American	97	2.5
2	Michigan	Big Ten	125.5	5
69	Michigan St	Big Ten	99	5
108	Middle Tenn	Conference USA	89.5	3
54	Minnesota	Big Ten	102	4.5
14	Mississippi	Southeastern	117	4.5
43	Mississippi St	Southeastern	105	5
24	Missouri	Southeastern	110	4.5
110	Navy	American Athletic	89	4
51	NC State	Atlantic Coast	102.5	4.5
51	Nebraska	Big Ten	102.5	5
130	Nevada	Mountain West	81	4.5
123	New Mexico	Mountain West	83.5	2
101	New Mexico St	Conference USA	91	2
28	North Carolina	Atlantic Coast	108.5	4.5
98	North Texas	American Athletic	91.5	3
98	No Illinois	Mid-American	91.5	4
88	Northwestern	Big Ten	94	3.5
10	Notre Dame	Atlantic Coast	120	5
1	Ohio State	Big Ten	126	6
73	Ohio U	Mid-American	97.5	3.5
12	Oklahoma	Big 12	117.5	5
39	Oklahoma St	Big 12	106	5
108	Old Dominion	Sun Belt	89.5	2.5
3	Oregon	Pac-12	123.5	5
23	Oregon St	Pac-12	110.5	5
6	Penn St	Big Ten	121.5	5
67	Pittsburgh	Atlantic Coast	99.5	4.5
65	Purdue	Big Ten	100	4.5
80	Rice	American Athletic	96	2.5
51	Rutgers	Big Ten	102.5	4
126	Sam Houston St	Conference USA	82	3.5
110	San Diego St	Mountain West	89	4.5
78	San Jose St	Mountain West	96.5	3
31	SMU	American Athletic	107	4
47	South Alabama	Sun Belt	104	2.5
40	South Carolina	Southeastern	105.5	5
123	Southern Miss	Sun Belt	83.5	4
94	Stanford	Pac-12	93	4.5
60	Syracuse	Atlantic Coast	101.5	4.5
24	TCU	Big 12	110	5
121	Temple	American Athletic	84	2.5
17	Tennessee	Southeastern	115	5.5
9	Texas	Big 12	120.5	5
12	Texas A&M	Southeastern	117.5	6
84	Texas St	Sun Belt	95.5	3
43	Texas Tech	Big 12	105	5
60	Toledo	Mid-American	101.5	3.5
60	Troy	Sun Belt	101.5	4
40	Tulane	American Athletic	105.5	2.5
118	Tulsa	American Athletic	86.5	4
96	UAB	American Athletic	92	4
26	UCF	Big 12	109	4
19	UCLA	Pac-12	113	3.5
85	UL-Lafayette	Sun Belt	95	3.5
130	UL-Monroe	Sun Belt	81	2.5
128	UMass	Independent	81.5	2.5
98	UNLV	Mountain West	91.5	2
15	USC	Pac-12	116.5	4
104	USF	American Athletic	90	3
21	Utah	Pac-12	111.5	4.5
88	Utah St	Mountain West	94	4
121	UTEP	Conference USA	84	3
47	UTSA	American Athletic	104	3
80	Vanderbilt	Southeastern	96	4
78	Virginia	Atlantic Coast	96.5	4.5
54	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	102	5
67	Wake Forest	Atlantic Coast	99.5	4.5
11	Washington	Pac-12	118.5	4.5
46	Washington St	Pac-12	104.5	4.5
47	West Virginia	Big 12	104	5
88	W Kentucky	Conference USA	94	4.5
112	W Michigan	Mid-American	88	3.5
34	Wisconsin	Big Ten	106.5	5.5
95	Wyoming	Mountain West	92.5	4.5

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

NFL

Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF
32	Arizona Cardinals	NFC West	92	2.5
13	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	99.5	2.5
3	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	106	3
3	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	106	3.5
28	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	95	2.5
29	Chicago Bears	NFC North	94.5	2.5
12	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	100	3
17	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	98	2.5
3	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	106	3
19	Denver Broncos	AFC West	97.5	3
8	Detroit Lions	NFC North	104	3
22	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	97	3
15	Houston Texans	AFC South	99	2.5
19	Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	97.5	3
9	Jacksonville Jaguars	AFC South	102.5	2.5
1	Kansas City Chiefs	AFC West	109	3.5
29	Las Vegas Raiders	AFC West	94.5	2.5
9	L.A. Chargers	AFC West	102.5	2
26	L.A. Rams	NFC West	95.5	2.5
7	Miami Dolphins	AFC East	105.5	2.5
24	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	96.5	3
26	New England Pats	AFC East	95.5	3
13	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	99.5	3
31	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	94	3
17	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	98	2
2	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	107	3
22	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	97	3
3	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	106	3
9	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	102.5	3.5
19	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	97.5	2.5
15	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	99	2.5
25	Wash Commanders	NFC East	96	2.5

Subscribe to the Playbook Football Newsletter Today!

	3★ BEST BET	4★ BEST BET	5★ BEST BET
FOR WEEK ENDING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023			
COLLEGE	CLEMSON	OKLA STATE	USC
NFL	SEAHAWKS	COWBOYS	CHARGERS
UPSET GAME	MARYLAND	SUBSCRIBE TO PLAYBOOK TODAY 800.752.9266	

2023 COLLEGE & PRO FOOTBALL - OCT 31-NOVEMBER 6

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

#	Team / Time / Net	OL	PB
	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31		
301	BUFFALO 7:30 PM		
302	TOLEDO ESPN2	15'	10
303	NO ILLINOIS 7:00 PM	3'	
304	C MICHIGAN ESPNU		1
	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1		
305	BALL ST ESPN2 7:00 PM		
306	BOWLING GREEN	6'	10
307	KENT ST 7:30 PM		1
308	AKRON ESPNU	4	
	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2		
309	TENNESSEE 8:15 PM		4
310	PITTSBURGH PRIME	3	
311	TCU 7:00 PM		3
312	TEXAS TECH FS1	3	
313	WAKE FOREST 7:30 PM		
314	DUKE ESPN	12'	7
315	SOUTH ALABAMA 7:30 PM		
316	TROY ESPN2	6'	10
	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3		
317	BOSTON COLLEGE 7:30 PM		3
318	SYRACUSE ESPN2	3	
319	COLORADO ST 8:00 PM		
320	WYOMING CBSSN	7	11
	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4		
321	COASTAL CAROLINA 3:30 PM	2	7
322	OLD DOM ESPN+		
323	CONNECTICUT 12:00 PM		
324	TENNESSEE SEC	35	31
325	MIAMI FLORIDA 8:00 PM	4	6
326	NC STATE ACC		
327	WISCONSIN 12:00 PM	9'	13
328	INDIANA BTN		
329	UCF 3:30 PM	4'	
330	CINCINNATI FS1		3
331	JACKSONVILLE ST 12:00 PM		
332	S CAROLINA ESPNU	15	17

#	Team / Time / Net	OL	PB
333	OHIO ST 12:00 PM	18'	8
334	RUTGERS CBS		
335	FLORIDA ST 3:30 PM	22	16
336	PITTSBURGH ESPN		
337	PENN ST 3:30 PM	10'	
338	MARYLAND★ FOX		1
339	MARSHALL 6:00 PM		
340	APP STATE NFL	4	3
341	TULANE	17	21
342	E CAROLINA ESPNU		
343	NEBRASKA 12:00 PM	3'	8
344	MICHIGAN ST FS1		
345	BYU 7:00 PM		
346	W VIRGINIA FS1	8'	1
347	VIRGINIA TECH 3:30 PM		
348	LOUISVILLE ACC	10'	14
349	GEORGIA TECH 2:00 PM		3
350	VIRGINIA CW	2	
351	NAVY 2:00 PM	7'	3
352	TEMPLE ESPN+		
353	IOWA PCOCK 3:30 PM (Wrigley Field)	6	3
354	NORTHWESTERN		
355	JAMES MADISON 3:30 PM	6	3
356	GEORGIA ST ESPN2		
357	ILLINOIS 3:30 PM		
358	MINNESOTA BTN	3'	7
359	HOUSTON 3:30 PM		
360	BAYLOR B12	4'	6
361	OREGON ST 10:00 PM	12	19
362	COLORADO ESPN		
363	ARIZONA ST 2:00 PM		
364	UTAH P12	11'	16
365	ARMY 2:30 PM (Mile High)		
366	AIR FORCE CBSSN	18'	28
367	UCLA 10:30 PM	2	7
368	ARIZONA FS1		
369	CALIFORNIA 5:30 PM		
370	OREGON P12	24	28
371	WASHINGTON 7:30 PM	3	
372	USC★ ABC		10
373	STANFORD 9:00 PM		
374	WASH ST P12	13	20

#	Team / Time / Net	OL	PB
375	UTAH ST 7:00 PM	2	
376	SAN DIEGO ST FS2		3
377	CHARLOTTE 4:00 PM		4
378	TULSA ESPN+	3	
379	KANSAS 7:00 PM		
380	IOWA ST ESPN	1'	6
381	LOUISIANA ESPN+ 3:00 PM	9	8
382	ARKANSAS ST		
383	LSU 7:45 PM		
384	ALABAMA CBS	4	3
385	SOUTH FLORIDA 3:00 PM		
386	MEMPHIS ESPN+	13	10
387	UTSA 3:00 PM	7	3
388	N TEXAS ESPN+		
389	SMU 7:30 PM	11	3
390	RICE ESPNU		
391	OKLAHOMA 3:30 PM	6	
392	OKLA ST★ ABC		6
393	FLA ATLANTIC 3:00 PM	2'	
394	UAB ESPN+		3
395	UL MONROE 4:00 PM		
396	SO MISS ESPN+	2'	1
397	KENTUCKY 7:30 PM	3	
398	MISSISSIPPI ST SEC		1
399	ARKANSAS 12:00 PM		6
400	FLORIDA ESPN2	5'	
401	MISSOURI 3:30 PM		
402	GEORGIA CBS	16'	10
403	TEXAS A&M 12:00 PM		3
404	OLE MISS ESPN	4	
405	KANSAS ST 12:00 PM		3
406	TEXAS FOX	5	
407	AUBURN 4:00 PM	13	16
408	VANDERBILT SEC		
409	HAWAII 4:00 PM		
410	NEVADA	4	1
411	LOUISIANA TECH 6:00 PM		
412	LIBERTY CBSSN	17	13
413	MIDDLE TENN 6:00 PM		
414	NEW MEX ST ESPN+	3	7
415	UNLV 6:00 PM	11	14
416	NEW MEXICO		

#	Team / Time / Net	OL	PB
417	GA SOUTHERN 7:00 PM	1'	
418	TEXAS ST ESPN+		3
419	PURDUE 7:30 PM		
420	MICHIGAN NBC	32'	28
421	NOTRE DAME 12:00 PM	3	
422	CLEMSON★ ABC		6
423	W KENTUCKY 9:00 PM	11	5
424	UTEP ESPN+		
425	BOISE ST 10:00 PM		
426	FRESNO ST CBSSN	3'	8
	NFL BYES: Denver, Detroit Jacksonville, San Francisco		
	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5		
451	MIAMI 9:30 AM (Frankfurt)		
452	KANSAS CITY NFL	2'	6
453	MINNESOTA 1:00 PM		3
454	ATLANTA FOX	3'	
455	SEATTLE★ 1:00 PM		6
456	BALTIMORE CBS	5'	
457	ARIZONA 1:00 PM		
458	CLEVELAND CBS	8'	4
459	LA RAMS 1:00 PM	2	3
460	GREEN BAY FOX		
461	TAMPA BAY 1:00 PM		3
462	HOUSTON CBS	2'	
463	WASHINGTON 1:00 PM		
464	N ENGLAND FOX	2	7
465	CHICAGO 1:00 PM		
466	NEW ORLEANS CBS	6'	10
467	INDIANAPOLIS 4:05 PM	2'	
468	CAROLINA CBS		3
469	NY GIANTS 4:25 PM		3
470	LAS VEGAS FOX	3'	
471	DALLAS★ 4:25 PM		8
472	PHILADELPHIA FOX	3'	
473	BUFFALO 8:20 PM		6
474	CINCINNATI NBC	1'	
	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6		
475	LA CHARGERS★ 8:15 PM	1	14
476	NY JETS ABC		