

# Marc Lawrence's Weekly **PLAYBOOK**<sup>®</sup> \$12

THE BEST FOOTBALL NEWSLETTER ON THE PLANET™

Volume 39, Issue 10

October 22-28, 2024

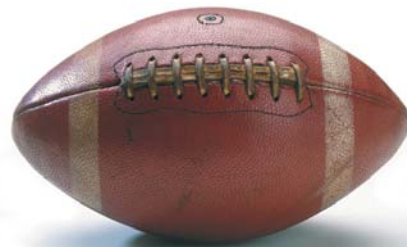
**Marc's 5-Star CFB Game Of The Month: Georgia +4.5 - WINNER!**

# AWESOME ANGLE AND UPSET GOW 8-1 WINNING RUN!

**94% 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**

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# STILL THE SAME

*A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping*

*You always won,  
every time you placed a bet  
You're still damn good,  
no one's gotten to you yet  
Every time they were sure  
they had you caught  
You were quicker than  
they thought  
You'd just turn your back  
and walk*

And that's exactly what NFL teams do the season after winning their division the previous season – after finishing in last place in the division the prior year.

These "Worst-to-First" teams tend to struggle in their home games the following campaign. Their 75-99-4 ATS ledger in all games dating back to 2004, when the NFL switched to its current divisional alignments, confirms that.

Last year was no different, as Jacksonville, Green Bay, and San Francisco combined to underwhelm.

However, more often than not, teams join this fraternity of "worst-to-first" teams that are not capable of carrying

the pressure of the added weight on their shoulders the next season.

With that, we can put ourselves into an advantageous winning situation if we were to –

**BET AGAINST any NFL home favorite who went from last place to first place in its division the previous season.**

By doing so, teams in this situation have gone 47-72-3 ATS since 2004, including 36-69-2 ATS, when dressing up as a favorite of -3 or more points.

In the end, these surprise upstarts find themselves exposed and are literally the same caliber team they've always been.

When these same favorites of -3 or more points face a division foe, they falter to **11-33 ATS**.

And if they are facing a division foe with the 'Over / Under' total in the game set at more than 41 points, they fall to 4-20 ATS. To that, it appears that the **Houston Texans** will likely be looking "Still the Same" in more ways than one this Sunday.

So, when this situation arises, you would be wise to take the advice of Bob Seger, who told us -

*Cause you're still the same  
You're still the same  
Moving game to game  
Some things never change  
You're still the same.*

It's here: My once-a-month **NFL 5-Star Game of the Month** and it goes this Sunday. And if it's anything like last week's 5-Star College Football Game of the Month winner when Georgia beat Texas outright as a 4.5-point dog, you won't want to miss this beauty.

It will be available on either a "pay after you win" basis or a discounted "prepaid" basis at [PlaybookSports.com](http://PlaybookSports.com) this Friday any time after 2:00 PM ET. Or best of all, get it with my **5-Star Football Weekend of Winners** for only \$99. Call **800.321.7777** for fast, friendly customer service – you'll be glad you did!

*Marc Lawrence*

**LATE BREAKING BEST BETS! PLAYBOOK MIDWEEK ALERT NEWSLETTER  
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## TRIVIA TEASER

**THIS WEEK'S AMAZING SITUATIONAL PLAY**

This coach is 10-3 ATS coming off a win versus foes coming off consecutive wins, including **6-1-1 ATS** when his team sports a greater than .666 win-percentage. Who is this week's not ready to lose prime time coach?

**For the Trivia Teaser answer, turn to page 13.**

## AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK

PLAY ON any 5-0 or greater college football home or neutral dog seeking revenge versus a non-conference opponent if the dog allows 21 or fewer points per game.

**Play ON:  
NAVY MIDSHIPMEN (10/26)**

**HOT  
DOG**

**ATS W-L  
Record 5/1980:  
15-1-1  
(94%)**

*View Marc's Awesome Angle Of The Week and more at the [PlaybookSports.com](http://PlaybookSports.com) website!*

# 2-MINUTE HANDICAP



FOR A COMPLETE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP OF EVERY GAME ON TODAY'S CARD, VISIT [www.PlaybookSports.com](http://www.PlaybookSports.com)

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

## College Football Games

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

## NFL Games

### TEAMS KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS

	<b>Friday, October 25</b>
<b>Boise State UNLV</b>	SERIES: 3-1 L4... 4-0 w/ rest L4Y... 6-2 as conf favs 7 < pts 5-0 vs conf opp w/ rest... 3-0 bef Week of Rest... 3-0 bef Haw
	<b>Saturday, October 26</b>
<b>Florida St MIAMI-FLA</b>	SERIES: Visitor 7-3... 4-1 in 2nd of BB RG... 4-1 vs trip revenge 4-1 in 1st of BB conf HG... 5-2 aft Lou... 0-4 L4 w/ trip revenge
<b>Byu UCF</b>	6-0 bef Week of Rest... 0-3 Game 8... 1-3 aft Weekday HG 7-1 vs .850 > conf opp... 5-1 Game 8... 1-4 as conf HD's 3 > pts
<b>Notre Dame Navy</b>	SERIES: 3-1 L4... 5-1 bef Week of Rest... 6-3 L9 as DD favs 6-1-1 L8 vs .700 > opp... 0-3 as dogs 13 > pts... 1-6-1 Game 7
<b>Michigan St MICHIGAN</b>	6-0-1 away w/ doub revenge... 2-8-2 as conf dogs 10 > pts 5-0 L5 vs doub rev... 7-1 in 1st of BB conf HG... 3-1-1 Game 8
<b>Missouri ALABAMA</b>	8-3 vs .700 > opp... 1-4 away bef Week of Rest... 3-8 Game 8 SERIES: 3-1 L4... 8-0 bef LSU... 9-1 bef Week of Rest
<b>Kansas KANSAS ST</b>	3-0 aft Houston... 4-1 as dogs 14 > pts... 0-8 bef Week of Rest SERIES: 4-1 L5... 5-1 aft West Va... 5-1 as conf favs 10 > pts
<b>Penn St WISCONSIN</b>	SERIES: 5-0 L5... 7-1 as conf RF's L3Y... 1-5 away w/ rest 4-0 L4 as conf HD's... 1-3 L4 vs undef conf opp... 2-4 bef Iowa
<b>Nebraska OHIO ST</b>	0-3 aft Indiana... 1-4 vs conf opp w/ rest... 1-4 as dogs 15 > pts SERIES: 6-2 L8... 9-0-1 as conf HF's 15 > pts... 4-1 w/ rest vs conf
<b>Illinois OREGON</b>	6-1 L7 vs undef conf opp... 5-1 as dogs 13 > pts... 0-3 bef Minn 4-1-1 vs .750 > conf opp... 3-7 as conf HF's > 15 pts

### TEAMS KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS

	<b>Thursday, October 24</b>
<b>Minnesota LA RAMS</b>	SERIES: 5-1-1 L7... 7-0-2 L9 as road favs... 6-2 vs NFC West 5-1 on Thurs... 5-1 aft Raiders... 2-7 as non-div HD's 6 < pts
	<b>Sunday, October 27</b>
<b>Tennessee DETROIT</b>	SERIES: 5-0 L5... 9-4 in 2nd of BB RG... 1-3 L4 non-conf RG 4-0 aft div RG... 5-1-1 L7 non-conf HG... 1-7 vs .333 < non-div
<b>Baltimore CLEVELAND</b>	4-1 L5 div RG... 4-1 aft non-conf RG... 5-2 in 2nd of BB RG SERIES: 3-1 L4... 3-1 in 2nd of BB div gms... 2-11 as HD's > 6 pts
<b>Green Bay JACKSONVILLE</b>	11-1 bef Det... 5-1 bef div HG... 0-4 as non-div RF's > 3 pts SERIES: 4-1 L5... 8-2 bef non-conf RG... 2-10 L12 non-conf HG
<b>Indianapolis HOUSTON</b>	SERIES: Visitor 3-1... 6-1 as conf dogs > 4 pts... 4-1 L5 div RG 0-4 home off BB RG... 1-5 L6 div HG... 2-6 vs doub revenge
<b>Arizona MIAMI</b>	10-3 L13 non-conf RG... 0-4 aft Monday HG... 1-4 vs AFC East SERIES: 3-0 L3... 7-1 vs opp off Monday HG... 0-3 Game 7
<b>Atlanta TAMPA BAY</b>	SERIES: 4-1 L5... 1-9 vs sing revenge... 2-8 as dogs 4 < pts 4-1 w/ sing revenge... 1-6 in 2nd of BB HG... 1-5 L6 div HG
<b>Chicago WASHINGTON</b>	1-4 bef Ariz... 2-8 aft Bye Week... 3-7 as non-div dogs 4 < pts SERIES: 6-2 L8... 3-1-1 vs opp off Bye... 1-7 in 2nd of BB HG
<b>Ny Jets N ENGLAND</b>	5-2 in 2nd of BB RG... 3-9 L12 div RG... 3-6 as conf favs 4 > pts SERIES: 6-2 L8... 0-4-1 w/ doub revenge... 1-5 L6 div HG
<b>Buffalo SEATTLE</b>	SERIES: 5-1-1 L7... 5-0-1 as non-div RF's < 10 pts... 0-4 Game 8 7-0 aft Atl... 7-1-1 L9 vs AFC East... 7-2 as non-conf dogs < 10 pts
<b>New Orleans LA CHARGERS</b>	SERIES: 3-1 L4... 8-1 Game 8... 8-2 L10 as non-conf RD's 5-1 home off BB RG... 1-3 aft Mon gm... 1-3 aft non-conf RG
<b>Philadelphia CINCINNATI</b>	3-1 as non-div dogs 4 < pts... 0-6 in 2nd of BB RG... 3-9 Game 7 SERIES: 11-0 L11... 6-0 L6 non-conf HG... 0-3 aft div RG
<b>Kansas City LAS VEGAS</b>	SERIES: Visitor 4-0... 1-8 aft non-conf RG... 1-5 aft SF 3-1 aft non-conf RG... 6-2 L8 div HG... 2-5 home vs sing rev
<b>Carolina DENVER</b>	0-9 bef div HG... 0-5 vs opp off Thur gm... 2-6 L8 non-conf RG SERIES: 4-1 L5... 6-0 aft Thur gm... 0-5-1 L6 vs .250 < opp
<b>Dallas SAN FRAN</b>	SERIES: 3-1 L4... 4-1 aft allow 35 > pts... 1-3 vs NFC West LY 6-0 L6 vs NFC East... 5-1 in 2nd of BB HG... 1-5 bef Bye
	<b>Monday, October 28</b>
<b>Ny Giants PITTSBURGH</b>	5-1 Monday RG... 2-6 L8 vs AFC North... 2-4 away off div HG SERIES: 3-0 L3... 3-1 on Mondays... 1-3 L4 non-conf HG



## BEHIND THE 8-BALL Featuring The Dreaded Bubble Burst

Game 8 of the College Football season is often a crossroads for most teams. Those who have won more games than they have lost are entertaining thoughts of securing a bowl bid. Those who are reeling and going down for the count are disappointed – and their actions on the field confirm those findings.

According to our powerful database, teams playing Game 8 off three consecutive losses are prime candidates to be dropped into a corner pocket and counted out... especially when they take to the road against an opponent off a loss. That's because teams in this scenario are a paltry 52-168 SU and 87-115-5 ATS since 1980. This week we'll be queuing-up against **Auburn, North Carolina, Rutgers, Southern Miss, Utah, and Utah State.**

Best of all, if they are coming off an outright loss as a favorite, they dip to 12-20-1 ATS, including **0-9-1 ATS** if they are favored again today. You can bid farewell to the **Utah Utes** this Saturday.

In addition, 6-0 teams off their first loss of the season as a favorite in Game Seven – 'bubble-burst' teams, if you will – are particularly despondent after having just seen dreams of a perfect season go up in smoke. That's confirmed by the fact that these teams are just 20-33-1 ATS In Game Eight since 1980, including 8-19 ATS away in conference contests. With that, **Texas** should also be behind the 8-ball this week.

So, in the meantime go ahead and make the call. 8-ball in the corner pocket for the win!

## INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

**SEC road dogs are 14-3 ATS this season, including 13-2 ATS in conference games.**

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

# THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL - OCTOBER 22-28

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 22**

### Sam Houston State over FLORIDA INT'L by 10

For those of you who live to watch football every night of the week, this is your time of the season. However, we wonder why these games between mediocre teams played in half-empty stadiums continue to populate the weeknight airwaves. Oh, wait a minute... it's all about the money! That and showcasing the newest arrivals to the FBS in contests where viewers don't really have the option to tune into a more compelling matchup. Thus, we welcome you to Tuesday Night at the Fights in the CUSA, where Sam Houston State – one of only three teams in the conference to currently boast a winning record overall this season – looks to improve its 5-2 mark over 2-5 Florida International. Perhaps the best thing that happened to the Owls this year was musical artist Pitbull agreeing to pay \$1.2 million for five years to secure the naming rights to formerly Riccardio Silva Stadium. The Golden Panthers have responded by winning two of their three home games so far. However, FIU is 1-6 ITS (In The Stats) this season and allowed season-high yards in each of its last two games. Sam Houston owns a decisive 8-3 ATS mark away since joining the FBS last season, and we don't see them being intimidated by these pussycats, even if money from Pitbull's posse has shaved the opening line down from SH -6.5 to -4.5. The bottom line is Florida International somehow beat the Bearkats, 33-27, in Huntsville as 5.5-point road dogs last season, so look for them to pay the price tonight.

### LOUISIANA TECH over Utep by 14

The CUSA carnage continues with 1-6 UTEP traveling to Ruston to challenge 2-5 Louisiana Tech. While most of America will be watching "Dancing With The Stars" or "The Voice", we'll be glued to the set to see if Terry Bradshaw's alma mater can somehow stop the bleeding from a horrendous 8-22 record compiled by third-year head coach Sonny Cumbie. Fortunately for the Bulldogs, they lost a close game to New Mexico State last week, and LTU is a money-making 16-8-1 ATS when coming off an outright loss as a favorite, including **5-0 ATS versus a sub .250 opponent. Woeful UTEP did manage to snap a 0-5 start to the season with a win over FIU last week, but it doesn't figure to help the Miners tonight, not when the boys from EL Paso are just 1-6 and 0-7 ATS** on weekdays when coming off a win, and 7-15 ATS as a single-digit road dog when allowing 29 or more points per game. And then there is Marc's **Betcha Didn't Know Ruby Tuesday** angle, as the Stones remind us that away teams on Tuesday, coming off a SUATS win, are **0-10 SU and 2-8 ATS** since 2017. We've stated before that when two bad teams battle, take the points – except the Miners are a really, really bad team. Translation? Lay the lumber with the Bulldogs and hope for the best.

**Wednesday, October 23**

### Liberty over KENNESAW STATE by 20

Seldom do you see a team of Liberty's caliber – who finished 13-1 in 2023 – open the season 5-0 and get ZERO attention or coverage outside of Lynchburg. How little respect, you ask? Check out this week's AP Top 25, where the Flames are nowhere to be seen. However, they do land dead last in the "Others Receiving Votes" category with just one vote, while Washington State, for example, leads the alsons with 46 votes. Granted, Liberty did not have to play on the road against Appalachian State after Hurricane Helene battered Boone and shut down the few roads leading into the mountain town. The problem tonight, though, is that the canceled game at ASU deprived the Flames of a possible sixth win and landed them in Marc's **SMART BOX as a '5-0 Fat Cat'** favorite fade. If that doesn't get your attention, the **MIDWEEK ALERT** also warns us that EVERY game the Fighting Falwells have played this season has been worse than each of the previous games from a defensive yardage standpoint (406, 414, 417, 471, and 533). Meanwhile, 0-6 Kennesaw State is running neck-and-neck with Kent State for worst FBS team honors at **0-6**

**ITS** by an average losing stat margin of -269 yards per game – while averaging an FBS low 13 PPG. Sheesh. Every time these guys take the field, they're already two-and-a-half football fields in the hole versus their opponent! That's enough to keep us from recommending a play on the Owls, but the 25-point line on Liberty, plus their huge game against smoking-hot Jacksonville State on deck, means we'll hold fast to our aversion to playing high-priced road chalk and skip this one.

### JACKSONVILLE ST over Middle Tennessee St by 14

Speaking of the smoking-hot Gamecocks under Rich Rodriguez, after an 0-3 SUATS start to the season, they have bounced back up off the mat to go **3-0 SUATS** in their last three games, winning by an average stat margin of +248 net yards per game. That's virtually the polar opposite of Kennesaw State's -269 YPG, illustrated by Jax State's 63-24 mauling of the Owls when they met on October 4. MTSU first-year head coach Derek Mason faces a rocky road down the remainder of the schedule after a 2-5 start where the Blue Raiders have been outscored by an average of 35-16 and whose lone wins came against Tennessee Tech and Kennesaw State. However, laying 20-plus points for the second week in a row for the first time in their young FBS tenure is not what the Gamecocks are about, especially with an all-out war against Liberty up next. The Blue Raiders have circled this game since they fell 43-30 as home chalk to JSU last season in a game MTSU dominated in the stats, 514-371. They also stuffed Kennesaw last week, allowing only 5 points in the win, and the Blue Man Group is a perfect **4-0 ATS** as double-digit dogs after allowing single digits in their previous game. Playing big chalk at this price is simply not in our wheelhouse, so we say take it or leave it here.

**Thursday, October 24**

### PITTSBURGH over Syracuse by 1

The most attractive matchup of the week so far pits another unbeaten team in the 6-0 Pittsburgh Panthers, against one of their main rivals in the former Big East Conference, Syracuse. Pitt has mastered the art of winning the close games this season, claiming three of their victories by a combined total of seven points. And since Pat Narduzzi's Panthers are ranked No. 19 in this week's AP Top 25, they're close to a TD favorite over the Orange tonight. If Syracuse hasn't shown up on your radar this season, you should give first-year head coach Fran Brown's team a look. Da Cuse is 5-1 and would be undefeated if not for a puzzling 2-point home loss to Stanford in late September. The Orange also handed UNLV its only loss of the season when the two met on October 5 in Vegas, a 44-41 thriller that took an overtime session to decide. Even more impressive, Syracuse is one of only twelve teams to win the stats in every game this year, plus the Orange are **11-2 ATS** in games when both teams are coming off a win. The Panthers have

## 2024 COLLEGE FOOTBALL CURRENT AP POLL

First Place votes in parenthesis, followed by total points.

1. Oregon (7-0) (59)	1,523	14. Tex A&M (6-1)	748
2. Georgia (6-1) (2)	1,434	15. Alabama (5-2)	643
3. Penn St (6-0)	1,375	16. Kansas St (6-1)	576
4. Ohio St (5-1)	1,353	17. Boise St (5-1)	573
5. Texas (6-1)	1,257	18. Ole Miss (5-2)	408
6. Miami FL (7-0)	1,242	19. Pittsburgh (6-0)	396
7. Tennessee (6-1)	1,075	20. Illinois (6-1)	392
8. LSU (6-1)	1,049	21. Missouri (6-1)	359
9. Clemson (6-1)	984	22. SMU (6-1)	313
10. Iowa St (7-0)	972	23. Army (7-0)	193
11. BYU (7-0)	910	24. Navy (6-0)	166
12. Notre Dame (6-1)	891	25. Vanderbilt (5-2)	92
13. Indiana (7-0)	830	7 others receiving votes	

**Marc Lawrence's**



**FIVE STAR  
NFL Game  
of the Month**

**Last Week CFB 5-Star:  
Georgia (+4.5) 30, Texas 15  
WINNER!**

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done well in tonight's role, going 9-1 when playing off a week of rest, but they're a miserable **1-8 ATS** off consecutive SUATS wins when facing .600 or greater opponents. In a game we look to go down to the wire, Da Cuse gets da nod.

### **Georgia Southern** over OLD DOMINION by 7

Last week, Georgia Southern beat James Madison 28-14 in a battle for the Sun Belt Conference East Division lead. Since the Eagles were 10-point dogs to the Dukes, most media outlets reported the result as an upset win. Folks, this was no upset. It was more like Sonny Corleone's merciless beating of his brother-in-law Carlo in "The Godfather," where Sonny punched, kicked, and pounded the man into mush, punctuating the assault by dumping a can full of trash on Carlo, then smashing his face repeatedly with the trash can lid. GSU led the game 21-0 at halftime and finished by winning the stats 405-253 – while holding JMU to a season-low yardage mark. Eagles QB JT French tried to keep the Dukes in the game by tossing three interceptions, but that wasn't enough to affect the outcome. A closer look at third-year head coach Clay Helton's team reveals their only losses this season came at the hands of No. 17 Boise State and No. 18 Ole Miss, so it seems to us as though the wrong team is favored in this contest. Sure, the upstart Monarchs have won three of their last four games and enter tonight's game off consecutive upset wins as underdogs. But while Old Dominion won last year's meeting in Statesboro, they own a paltry 3-9 SUATS record versus a foe seeking revenge, including **0-5 ATS** at home and **0-4 ATS** as a favorite. Georgia Southern won the last get-together on this field by a score of 38-23. Expect more of the same here. the points in an even matchup.

### **Friday, October 25**

#### **BOSTON COLLEGE** over Louisville by 3

Last week's rollercoaster contest between Miami, Florida, and Louisville was one of the wildest, most entertaining games of the year. But when it was all over, the 52-45 instant classic was just another loss for the Cardinals, the third in their last four games, all coming by an identical margin of 7 points. That's some major feather-ruffling for a team that opened the season 3-0 and entertained visions of reaching the ACC Championship game. Making matters worse for head coach Jeff Brohm, the **MIDWEEK ALERT** reminds us that Louisville is "leaking oil," going 0-3 ITS (In The Stats) in its last three games. That's not where you want to be a week before taking on conference bear Clemson, not when you're in the role of road chalk. Boston College should be ecstatic about returning home, considering the Eagles laid back-to-back eggs against the Virginia teams, dropping their 4-1 start to a 4-3 fight for survival. The **Well-Oiled Machine** just got back from some servicing, and we can tell you it's all good news for BC. Not only are the Beantown Boys 9-3 ATS with single conference revenge and 8-3 ATS as home dogs of 10 or fewer, but the series host is riding a

nice **4-0 SUATS** win streak. Not much on Louisville, except for a **1-6 ATS** failure in the first of consecutive road games. The bottom line is we can't lay points on the road with a team in recovery from an absolutely brutal defeat the week before.

#### **USC** over Rutgers by 20

A summary of USC's 2024 season: September – 3-1 start has fans saying, "We're back, baby!" October – 0-3 run has fans saying, "We're so screwed!" Southern Cal and UCLA going to the Big Ten seemed like an intriguing idea before the season started, but the reality is the Trojans rank second from the bottom in the conference standings at 1-4 in league play, tied with UCLA and ahead of only Purdue. And since bursting onto the scene in 2022 with an 11-3 debut, Trojans' head coach Lincoln Riley has struggled to an 11-9 mark since. The Trojans have a + 58-point differential, yet they're 3-4 overall. How is that possible? Because all four losses came in the final minute of regulation or in overtime, like last week when they blew a 14-point fourth-quarter lead in the final minute of play at Maryland for a third straight crushing setback. It's been a tale of two seasons for Rutgers, too, as the Scarlet Knights' brilliant 4-0 start has dissolved into a 0-3 skid, and they've now been out-yarded in each of their last four games. Most of the blame goes to opening against a trio of average teams, as the Rutgers offense churned out an average of 35 PPG during the win streak, only to fall off to just over 16 PPG in the last three contests. The fading Knights are also in a bad role here, going **2-10 ATS** off a conference game versus a foe off a conference game. USC has had success in the past against teams on a 0-3 SU slide, going 25-1 SU and 17-8-1 ATS. Even better, the Trojans are **7-0 ATS** coming off three consecutive losses when facing opponents with a winning record. After its horrible start in Big Ten play, USC can kiss the new 12-team Playoffs goodbye, and with road games at Washington and Notre Dame remaining in the regular season, it appears Southern Cal will be lucky to register a seven-win campaign. Tonight, though, with Rutgers an official fade in this week's **'Behind The Eight Ball' SMART BOX**, Riley can get off the hot seat for another week with a win and cover, and we think he'll get it.

#### **Boise State** over UNLV by 6

Broncos versus Rebels. It's not exactly Florida versus Georgia. Still, last year's Mountain West Championship game between Boise State and UNLV may have given us a preview of a burgeoning rivalry between the two. It was Rebs' head coach Barry Odom's first crack at Big Blue. It didn't end well, with UNLV getting shellacked, 44-20 – the second of three season-ending defeats that denied Las Vegas its first 10-win season since... well, since 1984, when they were members of the Pacific Coast Athletic Association (now the Big West). And with UNLV off to a sizzling 6-1 start, reaching ten wins in 2024 is not out of the question for Odom and his team. The architect of last year's blowout win by Boise for the MWC title, Andy Avalos, is no longer with the Broncos. However, new head coach Spencer Danielson has not skipped a beat, opening 5-1 with only a 3-point loss to mighty Oregon marring his record. One of a dozen teams that remain perfect In The Stats (**6-0 ITS**, winning the stats by an average of +142 net yards per game), Boise is pounding the ball on the ground with a staggering +7.9 net yards Per Rush Offense. It's what happens when your rushing attack is led by Heisman Trophy favorite Ashton Jeanty, a running back that UNLV's Odom says is in a class by himself. Like Boise, the Rebels' lone defeat came by a margin of 3 points, and it's not often you find a team with a net YPR of 5.8 like UNLV – only to find it's more than 2 YPR fewer than its opponent! Even though Vegas is 10-2 ATS in their last dozen games when taking points, we refuse to jump in front of a Broncos bunch intent on keeping its star running back atop the Heisman Trophy list of contenders. been MIA in the win column in 2024, but we tag them as a DIA-DIA, Dominating Dogs in Action, Doing it Again. This is a chance for the aging former contender to land one last good punch against the younger upstart, and we're siding with history here.

### **Saturday, October 26**

#### **TOLEDO** over Bowling Green by 1

The chase for this year's MAC title has gotten downright wild and wooly, with the 3-4 / 2-1 Falcons tied with the 5-2 / 2-1 Rockets and four others. In other words, good luck figuring out the MAC games this week. Say what you will about Bowling Green, but the BeeGees lost by just 7 points at Penn State and 6 points at Texas A&M, both  
*(continued on next page)*

ranked teams when they met earlier in the season. Meanwhile, the Rockets were ready to assume earth orbit after a 3-0 start but have slipped to .500 in the last four outings, losing two of three games on the road, but winning their only home game in that span against Miami, Ohio. The tale of the tape points to the Falcons, who are **4-0 SUATS** when coming off four consecutive ATS losses and 10-5 outright from Game Seven out the past two seasons. UT does own an impressive **10-2 ATS** record when coming off a conference road game, but the "Rockettes" were out-gained by 106 yards in a 15-6 win over Northern Illinois last week. Considering Toledo is just 1-3-1 ATS in the last five series hookups on this field, a take appears to be in order. Holy Toledo... we're actually fading the Rockets in their Glass House today!

### MIAMI FLORIDA over Florida State by 24

It was indeed a sordid business. Last year, the undefeated ACC Conference champion Florida State was snubbed by the CFB Playoff committee in favor of the 1-loss teams Alabama and Texas. The result was a mass exodus by FSU's best players, and the team that faced Georgia in the Orange Bowl was little more than a skeleton crew. It was so bad that Georgia did everything humanly possible NOT to run up the score, but the Dawgs still dominated, 63-7. After the embarrassing "contest" was over, one commentator remarked, "You know, Florida State might never recover from this beating." Fast forward to 2024, and here's what's become of the once-proud Seminoles: **1-6 SU** and 2-5 ATS overall, and **1-5 SU** in the ACC. At this stage of the season, it's safe to say you can throw the history book out when working up an FSU game, especially when they failed to show up last week against an opponent they had defeated 22 games in a row when they fell to Duke. The Noles are playing so poorly that they've been out-gained in six of seven contests this season, being outstated an average of -92 net yards per game. Ugh. Miami, on the other hand, is playing like the symbolic hurricane on their helmets, stomping all lesser foes and outlasting the good ones in close contests to open 7-0 – likely on a path that will see them collide with Clemson for the ACC title and an automatic berth in the CFB Playoffs. However, the Canes' 6-12-1 ATS record as a favorite (never more than -14 points) and head coach Mario Cristobal's 6-11 ATS mark at home as a favorite of more than 18 points, and his 5-12 ATS record as conference chalk of 13 or more points, doesn't inspire much confidence in the 'U' covering this big number. So, do we want to fade the top offense in college football (577 YPG) that averages 48 PPG with a foe scoring 15 PPG? I Don't think so. Lay it if you play it.

### 3★ BEST BET

#### UCF over Byu by 10

Kudos to the Mormons. No. 11 BYU is the first Power Conference team from Utah ever to start the season 7-0. Hard to believe that head coach Kalani Sitake is in his ninth year after taking the reins from the legendary Bronco Mendenhall (currently head coach at New Mexico), but this year's break from the gate has improved his record at Provo to 68-41. The Cougars had better not get too comfortable reading all the press clippings, though, as the Well-Oiled machine notes that 7-0 road favorites in Game Eight of the season are just 4-10 ATS if they allow 19 or more points per game, including **1-9 ATS** against foes who won eight or fewer games last season. Yes, the Knights have dropped four straight on the scoreboard, but they damn near handed Iowa State its first loss of the season last week before giving up a late touchdown to fall 28-25. Considering Central Florida's success under Scott Frost and Josh Heupel, Gus Malzahn seemed the right hire to continue the Knights' winning ways. However, an 18-9 debut was derailed by last season's 6-7 finish, and this year's 3-4 effort has the natives restless in Orlando. The 'Y' owns a sweet 6-0 ATS mark before a week of rest and a 5-1 ATS log when playing away off back-to-back, but we're more impressed by UCF's **7-1 ATS** success versus .850 or better conference opponents. We also saved the best for last with **THE CLINCHER: UCF is 13-4 ATS versus undefeated opponents, including 5-0 ATS as a single-digit dog.**

**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.

### VIRGINIA over North Carolina by 10

The clock is ticking on Mack Brown's tenure at North Carolina, and he's looking more tired than Gary Cooper at the end of "High Noon." Fittingly, today's contest from Charlottesville starts at 12 O'Clock, and we could witness the beginning of the end for the head coach who won a national championship at Texas and devoted two stints to the Tar Heels. Brown has gone 2-3 SU versus the Wahoos since returning to UNC, and one would think he circled this game in red paint following last season's 31-27 loss to UVA as 24-point home chalk. The problem is that the Heels are riding a **0-7 ATS** mark in games when coming off a conference home game, and they are also 1-4 SUATS when riding a 4-game losing streak. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the 4-2 SU and 4-1-1 ATS Cavs have very quietly put together a decent season and find themselves just one loss back of four ACC foes that have yet to drop a conference tilt this year. Tony Elliott's team has also dominated as of late when it comes to cashing tickets in this series, going **6-1 ATS** in the last seven meetings with UNC, including **3-0 ATS** here at Scott Stadium. Talk about two teams heading in opposite directions: If it weren't for the fact that they beat the Heels in a game in which they were out-stated last year, we'd consider snapping the rubber band on a North Carolina team that hasn't visited the winner's circle since beating NC Central on September 14. As it is, we'll be content to heed this week's **'Behind the Eight Ball' SMART BOX** that pegs the Tar Heels as a play-against team here.

### Eastern Michigan over AKRON by 7

Despite a 1-6 record this season, Akron fans can take solace in knowing that Kent State is having a worse year than the Zips. But after amassing a dreadful 5-26 mark in his third year as Akron's head coach, it's only a matter of time before Joe Moorhead is sent packing. In an article by John Buhler of Fansided listing the "11 Coaches Destined To Be Fired" before the end of the current college season, Moorhead landed at No. 4 behind Ryan Walters (Purdue), Mack Brown (UNC), and Trent Dilfer (UAB). Buhler noted, "The Rise and Fall of Joe Moorhead needs to be a sports documentary nobody would ever spend two seconds to watch. He has made Akron Kent State bad." For those of you keeping score out there, the Zips will hit the road to take on Kent State on November 19, hopefully settling once and for all the question of which team is the MAC's true bottom feeder. Until then, Akron must play three games, starting with today's game against Eastern Michigan at Infocision Stadium. The 5-2 / 2-1 Eagles are still a major player in the conference race and should use this contest as a tune-up for next week's game with Toledo. As you know, we're big fans of Chris Creighton, and he hasn't lost to Akron since 2015. His EMUs also bring a **9-2-1 ATS** road record into the fray against MAC foes they beat in a most recent meeting. Back to the Zip bags, who are 3-31 SU and 8-24-2 as home dogs, including a putrid **1-16 SU and 2-13-2 ATS** as dogs of fewer than eleven points. With Moorhead's zipless squad being outgained -145 net yards per game this season, look for Eastern Michigan to hammer another nail into Joe's coaching coffin.

### JAMES MADISON over Southern Miss by 31

"We are grateful to Will and his family for their dedication to Southern Miss over the past four years," athletic director Jeremy McClain said in a statement. "Will poured his heart and soul into this program and into shaping these young men. Unfortunately, the results on the field didn't align with our shared goals and expectations." Thus, head coach Will Hall (1-6 this year and 14-30 overall) joined ECU's Mike Houston in the unemployment line over the weekend. The pressure now falls on assistant head coach Reed Stringer to step in as interim coach for the remainder of the 2024 season. This is all great news for James Madison, or "Jimmy Mad," after the team lost for the second time as a double-digit favorite this season last week in a 28-14 loss at Georgia Southern when they gained a season-low 253 yards. That result knocked the Dukes down into a tie for third place in the Sun Belt East, so they'll be hyper-focused on using today's game to establish momentum down the stretch. JMU takes the field with some strong numbers, going **5-0 ATS** after allowing 28 or more points and **6-0 ATS** when coming off an ATS loss. The not-so-Golden Eagles? Would you believe **0-6 SU and ITS** (In The Stats) versus FBS opposition with an average stat loss of -125 net yards per game this season? We would. Smissy's awful **2-10 ATS** when both teams are coming off ATS losses – along with the Eagles appearing as a fade in this week's **'Behind the Eight Ball' SMART BOX** on page 3 – further seals the deal. You know what to do.

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### Northern Illinois over BALL STATE by 18

Back to the MAC, we go for what looks to be a one-sided bloodletting. The 4-3 / 1-2 Huskies have disappointed since NIU pulled the rug out on Notre Dame as a 28-point dog, going just 2-3 outright since. They are, however, **7-0 ITS** this season, winning the stats by an average of +141 net yards per game behind the nation's No. 3 overall ranked defense. In other words, they are indeed the best 4-3 team in the nation, and we think the Huskies will have their way with the sad-sack Gonads this afternoon. For openers, Ball State is just **1-6 ITS**, losing the stats by an average of -139 net yards per game, and by our math, this is a +280 net stat yard mismatch in NIU's favor. For closers, Northern Illinois stands **11-2 ATS** when coming off a conference clash when facing a foe coming off a non-conference contest. Don't empty the account, though, as BSU head coach Mike Neu has won three of the last four meetings against NIU, with the loss coming by a single point. The Huskies make amends today with a solid win and ATS cover.

### VIRGINIA TECH over Georgia Tech by 3

The 5-3 / 3-2 Jackets face the 4-3 / 2-1 Hokies in what is a key game for each team moving forward. Georgia Tech head coach Brent Key has not lost back-to-back games since taking over last season, but with the Yellow Jackets coming off a 31-13 drubbing at Notre Dame last week, we don't expect that trend to continue. However, we expect the Rambling Wreck to cash a ticket in this early start from Blacksburg after going **4-0 ATS** in the last four trips to Lane Stadium. They also get support because the visiting team in this series is riding a red-hot **10-1 SU and 11-0 ATS** run. Virginia Tech rolls snake eyes by comparison, going **0-7 SUATS** when coming off consecutive wins and **1-10 ATS** when coming off consecutive games as a favorite. Bad numbers like that make the current 10-point spread all the more appealing, so we're stepping up to the window right now. You should, too.

### OHIO over Buffalo by 10

Our game of MAC hopscotch continues as we alternate between Mid-American Conference football games and those outside their sphere of importance. Next stop: Athens, Ohio. Despite losing two of its last three games, Buffalo is closing in on the conference lead with a 4-3 / 2-1 record. Ohio brings the exact same record into the fray today, but the Bobcats' numbers look much better. The Bulls are losing the stats by an average -100 net yards per game this season, while OU boasts a +50 net yards edge per game. Buffy has also cashed only TWO tickets in their last dozen games when both teams were coming off a MAC contest. And as far as the series goes, the visiting team is sliding down a **1-6 ATS** drain. Toss the Bobcats' **4-0 SUATS** run of late when hosting the Bulls and we're ready to wave the red cape in Buffalo's direction.

### APPALACHIAN STATE over Georgia State by 13

Things are starting to return to some degree of normality for Boone, NC, since Hurricane Helene shattered the age-old adage that "Hurricanes can never harm us because we're protected by the mountains". That's a hard no. After a massive cleanup effort, Appalachian State is planning to play at Kidd Brewer Stadium for the first time since the Mountaineers got poleaxed by South Alabama, 48-14, on September 19. ASU seldom loses a home game and the rout by the Jaguars foreshadowed ugly road losses to Marshall and Louisiana which dropped the Mountain Boys season record to 2-4, including a desperate 0-3 mark in Sun Belt play. Georgia State arrives with precisely the same record, so it's time for the Mountaineers to make a big push if they wish to land a ninth bowl game in the past ten seasons. Okay, we will admit we're not big fans of playing 8-point home chalk during Homecoming weekend. However, we can turn a blind eye to that notion after viewing these ASU stats: **10-2 ATS** as a favorite if they were a dog in the last game, and **9-1 ATS** when coming off a loss. Gut check time for the homeboys, whose season will be washed away by another home loss this afternoon.

### WESTERN MICHIGAN over Kent State by 13

We outlined 0-7 Kent State's continuing troubles this season earlier in our Eastern Michigan versus Akron write-up, but we're still going to ask the question: What makes a team the worst in the FBS this season? When it faces six FBS foes, and allows season-high yards in all six games. It's why the Flashes have been whipped by an average -269 net yards per game this season, while being outscored by a whopping 29 points PPG. Needless to say, second-year KSU head coach Kenni Burns expects to be pink-slipped after a disastrous tenure that has so far resulted in a **1-18 SU and 4-13-1 ATS** record. Sheesh. We would normally be on the Broncos like fleas on a dog except for the fact that this is a dreaded Homecoming favorite game, and Western Michigan is **0-5 ATS** in their last five games as a double-digit chalk. Still, don't expect WMU to take the day off here, no matter how bad the opponent, not when the MAC-leading 3-0 Broncos are being pursued by no less than six teams with a 2-1 conference record. While this might look like easy money, remember that looks can sometimes be deceiving – even with Kent state. Proceed with caution.

## UPSET GAME OF THE WEEK UPSET

### DUKE over Smu by 1

The 6-1 / 3-0 Mustangs are acquainting themselves well in the ACC, one of four teams with an unblemished record in conference play this season. However, they are just 3-7 ATS on the road versus .700-or-better opposition and just 2-4 against the number in the second of back-to-back road tilts. Meanwhile, the equally impressive 6-1 / 2-1 Blue Devils are just on the outside looking in at the conference leaders, and a win here puts them right in the thick of the race to the title. After a shaky stint in Miami, Manny Diaz is making the most of his second chance as an ACC coach thanks to some sharp moves in the transfer portal, which he used to replace seven players who left the program. Leading that group is Texas transfer QB Maalik Murphy, who is playing with increasing confidence this season as a redshirt sophomore, and New Mexico State transfer running back Star Thomas. Murphy has thrown for 1,431 yards and 14 touchdowns with only five interceptions. The Dukies are **7-1 ATS** as conference home dogs of less than 14 points and are 4-1 ATS after a Weekday game. We like double-digit home dogs with the better defense, and we love Duke today. We also like **THE CLINCHER: The Blue Devils are 10-3-1 ATS as a conference home dog with a.333 or greater win percentage, including 10-1-1 ATS when not coming off an ATS loss of 20 or more points.**

### MIAMI OHIO over Central Michigan by 16

The Chippewas have hit the skids in the MAC, going just **2-12 ATS** in their last fourteen conference clashes. They are also **2-11 ATS** when coming off an ATS loss when facing a foe coming off an ATS win and **2-10 ATS** when coming off a road loss. Their latest defeat came at the hands of directional rival Eastern Michigan when the Chips blew a 34-16 fourth-quarter lead by allowing EMU to account for three TDs in the final frame, including a one-yard sneak by QB Cole Snyder in

*(continued on next page)*

the final two minutes to steal the victory. The RedHawks, meanwhile, have battled back from an 0-3 start to win three of their last four games entering this contest. They have also owned this series, going **5-0 SUATS** and 3-0 ATS at home, and are **10-2 ATS** in Game Eight of the season. Miami keeps it rolling in Muncie today.

### EAST CAROLINA over Temple by 6

The Owls have shown signs of life recently, going 4-1 ATS in the last five games while holding Tulsa to a season-low 210 yards in their 20-10 win over the Hurricane last week. We can't back them today, though, knowing they are 2-18 outright in their final five games of the season over the last four years. Meanwhile, East Carolina fired head coach Mike Houston on Sunday, one day after falling to 3-4 this season after the 45-28 loss to Army. Houston took the Pirates to bowl games in 2020 and 2021 but has gone 5-14 since. ECU edged the Hooters 49-46 in the 2022 regular season finale. However, at just 2-5 ITS (In The Stats) this season, you won't find us laying points with operations like this, even with a new head coach on the sidelines.

### KENTUCKY over Auburn by 1

These are two disappointing teams in a battle to see which one tosses in the towel first. The Tigers are riding a four-game losing skid, and suddenly, High Freeze's name and reputation are on the line – especially in these days of transfer portal players and NIL contracts. Freeze (8-12 at Auburn) now has a worse record than his predecessor, Bryan Harsin (9-11), and we all know how that turned out. Having a third game in a row on the road doesn't help matters either, as this is only the first time since 1980 that the Tigers will be playing a third-straight away game... yes, you read that right. Conversely, the Wildcats have fared dismally in this series, going 1-11 SU and 4-8 ATS. They also have a triple revenge contest on deck at Tennessee next week and are 3-8 SUATS before playing the Vols. They were 3-2 after they stunned Ole Miss, but enter today's contest at 3-4. This game has yawner written all over, and this week's **INCREDIBLE STAT** on page 3 takes on this week's **fade in the 'Behind the Eight Ball' SMART BOX** on page 3, which puts us on the sidelines in this contest.

### Rice over UCONN by 3

The Huskies are **1-7 ATS** as home favorites versus AAC opposition and **0-7 ATS** as home favorites of 15 or fewer points versus foes coming off a loss. Meanwhile, the 2-5 Owls are definitely patternistic this season. In the last three games, their worklog reads – **loss**: win the stats; **win**: lose the stats; **loss**: win the stats. Is a sloppy win while being outgained in order today? They lost 38-31 as 10-point chalk to the Huskies last season despite out-gaining UConn by over 100 yards in the defeat (a 4-0 turnover deficit did them in). A 5-0 turnover deficit also cost them in last week's 24-10 loss at Tulane, as they out-yarded the Green Wave. With so many similar characteristics surrounding this contest, it's the Owls' turn today!

### Notre Dame over NAVY by 3

Always an exciting game, but this year's match-up (first since 2019) is only the 11th time in 97 meetings that both teams have been ranked at game time. The 12th-ranked Fighting Irish are 4-0 ATS in Game 8 and 5-1 before a Week of Rest, so there is plenty of Irish ammunition here. However, we're not about to fade Marc's hot **AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK**, as outlined on page 2. Not with the Dame just 3-11-1 ATS as a favorite versus avenging undefeated foes. As for the 24th-ranked Midshipmen, they are **6-1-1 ATS** in their last eight games versus .700-or-better foes. The Well-Oiled Machine chips in, too, noting that college football home dogs who scored 50-plus points in their last games are 47-30 ATS since 1985, including **8-0 ATS** in the last eight games. You know exactly what to do.

### ARKANSAS STATE over Troy by 3

The 4-3 / 2-1 Wolves have been out-yarded in four of their previous five games this season. They are also **1-6 ATS** as a favorite of fewer than 20 points versus a foe coming off a double-digit loss. Meanwhile, the 1-6 / 0-3 Trojans are going nowhere fast this campaign. This is on the heels of winning 23 games the previous two seasons, so it's safe to say it's been a tough year for first-year head coach Gerad Parker. The ray of light is that they held South Alabama to a season-low 318 yards in last week's 25-9 defeat. Still, the fact of the matter is that Troy owns the better defense in this matchup by 73 YPG. They have also been the favorite in five of the previous six games in the series. The one time they took points, they won the game 38-10. The Men of Troy have been good to us in the past, and we'll lean to them today.

### MICHIGAN over Michigan State by 1

Chaos reigned in East Lansing when Jonathan Smith was hired to become the head coach at Michigan State, as 42 players entered the transfer portal during the off-season. Not all of them left, but Smith was able to convince his QB Aidan Chiles and TE Jack Velling to head east from Corvallis and also retained seven of those scholarship players. It seems as if things have calmed down a bit after the Spartans beat Iowa on Saturday, 32-20, as Chiles threw for 256 yards and ran for 51 more. The Spartan defense allowed a 75-yard run to the nation's #2 rusher, Kaleb Johnson, but the Hawkeyes' RB gained just 23 yards on his other 13 carries. Remember that the visitor in this Big Chill series is 4-2 ATS, while Sparty is 6-0-1 ATS away with double revenge and 7-3-1 ATS in Game 8. We all know by now that the defending national champion Wolverines are a targeted team this season and that Jim Harbaugh is miles away blowing his stack on the Chargers' sideline. However, seeing them held to seven points on Saturday by Illinois (the lowest total for Michigan since 2014) genuinely concerns those in Ann Arbor.

### MINNESOTA over Maryland by 6

The 4-3 / 1-3 Terrapins battle the 4-3 / 2-2 Gophers in a critical game for both of these bowl-hungry troops, each with a different approach to the game. The Turtles' 436-yard offense ranks No. 35 in the nation, while the Gophers' 283-yard defense is 9th best in the land. The host in this series is **4-0 SUATS**, and Minny is **10-1-1 ATS** in Game Eight. The Golden Gophers have held two foes to less than 200 yards of offense this season and two others to season-low yardage. Unfortunately, they have yet to top 27 points in any FBS contest this season, and they undoubtedly will need that and more here, considering a 10-38-1 ATS record as home chalk in games where they tally 27 or fewer points. The fact that they are just 3-7 ATS when favored against winning foes makes this a tough call, y'all.

### Washington over INDIANA by 1

The Huskies and the Hoosiers are two of only twelve remaining teams that are perfect ITS (In The Stats) this season. The difference is that UDub is 4-3 overall while "Windiana" is 7-0, meaning the dogs will come extra hungry today. Be aware that Jedd Fisch is **6-0 ATS** as a dog versus foes coming off consecutive SUATS wins. As for the ascending Hoosiers, their 56-7 thrashing against Nebraska marked only its second 7-0 start to a season – the first was in 1967 – but they lost QB Kurtis O'Rourke for the foreseeable future as he is out indefinitely with a thumb injury. It means he will miss this week's matchup vs. the Washington Huskies when Indiana hosts ESPN's *College GameDay* for the first time in school history. Sports Yahoo calls out the unique fact that we now live in a world where Indiana (No. 13) is ranked higher than Alabama (No. 15) in football, and Alabama (No. 2) is ranked higher than Indiana (No. 17) in basketball. Go figure... We can't argue with the fact that the Hoosiers are one of only three FBS teams who rank in the Top 10 on both sides of the ball – total offense and total defense – but without O'Rourke, it's a moot point today. This is where "bubble bursts" occur, so use caution.

### TCU over Texas Tech by 11

The 5-2 / 3-1 Raiders are a leg up on the 4-3 / 2-2 Frogs, which makes this a huge game for conference positioning. An **0-5 ATS** mark for TTRR in the first of back-to-back road games, a **1-12-2 ATS** record in Game 8, and a **2-10 ATS** when coming off a home loss all have us searching for another route. On the flip side, the Frogs are coming off a 13-7 upset win at Utah, where they held the Utes to a season-low 267 yards, and on top of that, TCU is **5-1 ATS** after playing Utah. Couple that with the fact that the Horned Ones have covered three of the last four meetings with Tech, and we are all in with TCU.

### UL Monroe over SOUTH ALABAMA by 1

The 5-1 / 3-0 Warhawks have been a major surprise this season, riding a 3-0 SUATS win streak for the first time since 2017. However, last season was a different story, as they took it on the chin, 55-7, as a 10-point home dog against the Jaguars in 2023. Behind a vastly improved defense that has held two foes to season-low yards this season, revenge looms large for ULM today. The oddsmakers don't seem to have grasped the improvement of Louisiana-Monroe, and this number seems way too high. Especially since the 3-4 / 2-1 Jag's defense is 55 yards inferior to the Warhawks. They did have an 87-point game this season (against FCS foe Northwestern State), but they are back on the proper level here, and a 2-10 ATS record as a conference favorite against avenging opponents means there is only one way to look today. You know the deal.



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**4★ BEST BET**

**Lsu over TEXAS A&M by 10**

How tough is life in the SEC these days? Consider that every SEC team has at least one road loss this season, and following Alabama's loss to Tennessee and Texas' loss to Georgia last week, this becomes the primetime game of the week in the conference, as the winner will be the last unbeaten team in SEC play. The victor will have sole possession of first place in the SEC and valuable tie-breaker ammo in the quest to make it to Atlanta for the title game. Ironically, both of these teams lost their season opener, but LSU is really rounding into form and is now on a six-game win streak. For what it's worth, EA College Football 25 predicts the Tigers in an overtime thriller today. For added ammo, see this week's **INCREDIBLE STAT** on page 3. Better yet, turn instead to **THE CLINCHER: LSU is 14-2 ATS in the second of back-to-back games, including 10-3 SU and 13-0 ATS versus greater than .400 opponents.** Meanwhile, Mike Elko has resurrected the program that Jimbo buried and has the Aggies back at the top, thanks to the transfer portal. Ten players Elko brought in were in the starting line-up in the 41-10 rout of No. 9 Missouri earlier this month. Unfortunately, A&M is also **0-9 ATS** in this series when coming off consecutive wins and just 3-7 as conference home chalk of less than 5 points.

**Utah over HOUSTON by 3**

Woe are the Utes. They were the preseason choice to win the Big 12 and started at 4-0, but could not sustain it without star QB Cam Rising, who has not started a game with nagging injuries since Game Two. The loss of Rising has caught up with them as they enter tonight's clash riding a rare three-game losing skid, and OC Andy Ludwig resigned amidst the turmoil. A 6-1 ITS (In The Stats) mark this season speaks to their ability, but showing it on the stadium scoreboard is a different matter. Meanwhile, the 2-5/ 1-3 Cougs have held three foes to season-low yardage but have struggled offensively as QB Donovan Smith has not been able to fill the shoes of Clayton Tune. They are now ranked 121st in the nation in Total Offense, and Smith has thrown eight picks in seven games. Still, Houston is **7-1 ATS** as dogs off a SUATS loss versus .666 or lesser foes, so take it if you play it.

**OLE MISS over Oklahoma by 16**

Just look at this point spread! Could you have imagined this number even ten years ago? It doesn't scare us away, as Oklahoma is in grave

danger of missing the bowl season for the first time since 1998 when they went 5-6. It was no surprise to find the Sooners leading the week's MISERY INDEX by USA TODAY'S Dan Wolken following last week's unsettling 35-9 loss to South Carolina (don't say we didn't warn you). OU's 1-3 mark in the SEC puts them only one game atop 0-4 cellar dwellers Auburn and Mississippi State in the newly expanded 16-team conference, and its 1-3 conference record is its worst since 2022 when Brent Venables took the reins in Norman. To that, we ask, "Now that OC Seth Littrell was shown the door on Sunday, how hot is the seat in which Venable sits these days?" And that's even after he received a new contract with a \$44.8 million buyout after last season. It wouldn't be surprising to see Lane Kiffin try to rub his face in the dirt, but the truth is, despite their voluminous 41.4 PPG average, the Rebels have not scored a touchdown in the second half of their SEC games this season. The frustrated Rebs are 7-0 in the statistical wars but only 5-2 on the scoreboard this season. An 0-7-2 ATS mark on the road off an away game keeps us at arm's length from Johnny Reb. The bottom line: Venables will need help from this week's **INCREDIBLE STAT** on page 3.

**Oklahoma State over BAYLOR by 3**

The Bears upset Texas Tech last week to even their ledger at 4-4 but have yielded 997 yards in the past two games. Dave Aranda hopes the win will help his crew put a U-turn to the three-game losing streak that jeopardizes his job. Sadly, though, a **1-5 ATS** when coming off an outright conference win as a dog does not give us much confidence in that scenario. Meanwhile, while it's been a rocky road for the disappointing Cowboys, the talent is still there, and with it, so is the value at this stage of the season. RB Ollie Gordon is not even close to having the kind of season that would get him into the Heisman race. Still, he did rush for over 100 yards against BYU (only the second time this season) and was able to cross the goal line three times – that hadn't happened since the opener against San Diego State. An **11-2 ATS** record when both teams are coming off ATS wins seals it.

**NORTH TEXAS over Tulane by 1**

Tulane won 24-10 as 22-point chalk against Rice last week in a game they were outstated 344-306. The win was the fourth in a row for the Green Wave and came when the Greenies' defense made a big interception in the second half with the game tied at 10, then put together two TD drives in the 4th quarter to pull away to victory. Headed into today, both teams are 5-2 this season, with the Wave 3-0 in AAC and the Meanies 2-1 in conference play, both looking up at undefeated Army and Navy. Tulane has played well defensively and is ranked 24th in the country, allowing just 317 YPG, but must stop North Texas QB Chandler Morris, who has NTSU ranked 3rd in the nation in Passing Offense. Morris outdueled Seth Henigan last week in the 52-44 shootout loss to Memphis on Saturday, throwing for 445 yards and 3 TDs. He also ran for 71 yards. The Mean Green is **11-1 ATS** when coming off a conference road game. Besides the passing game, they are ranked No. 3 in overall offense (529 YPG and 41 PPG). With NTSU a "mission dog" this season (a bowler the prior three years who failed to go bowling last season), we'll back them as a home dog in revenge.

**ALABAMA over Missouri by 6**

The Tigers engineered a comeback victory over Auburn, 21-17, behind injured QB Brady Cook, who missed about half of the game with an ankle injury suffered on the game's first series. HC Eli Drinkwitz said he had no idea early in the week if his signal-caller could play against the Crimson Tide. Mizzou is 3-0 ATS after playing Auburn and 8-3 ATS in their last 11 games against .700-or-better foes. For more ammo, see this week's **INCREDIBLE STAT** on page 3. On the flip side, Bama is not the invincible powerhouse they were under the Nicktator – remember, the Tide almost gave away a surefire win against Georgia in late September and was borderline lucky to escape South Carolina, so two losses could easily be four. Two losses by the third Saturday in October hasn't happened since Saban's first season in 2007 in Tuscaloosa. As a result, the Tide have been pushed onto the College Football Playoff bubble and appear unlikely to make the Southeastern Conference championship game. This blueblood program could be in trouble... and this will not be a walk in the park, either. Not with the Tide currently "**Leaking Oil**" (0-3 ITS last three games) and hosting the Tigers in this Homecoming affair. Check on Cook's status before taking the plunge on the Tigers.

*(continued on next page)*

## MEMPHIS over Charlotte by 11

The **MIDWEEK ALERT** reports the Tigers won last week's game against North Texas, 52-44, yet they were out-yarded 653-526. QB Seth Henigan had another solid game for Memphis, but RB Mario Anderson Jr. was the star for the Tigers, rushing for 183 yards and four touchdowns. Laying doubles in follow-up games like these are automatic no-nos in our books. Also, remember that both teams are tied at 2-1 in AAC play this season, but the 49ers are 3-4 overall, while the Tigers are 6-1. Still, Charlotte held Navy to a season-low 291 yards in last week's 51-17 loss. Today, they will have to avoid the turnover bug (five against the Middies, including two pick-6s), but double-digit dogs coming off Army or Navy games this season are 3-1 ATS... we're buyers.

## Texas over VANDERBILT by 10

Suddenly, the Longhorns' best win of the season is over two-loss Michigan in its season opener, making their strength of school schedule look like mincemeat, with their other big win coming against three-loss Oklahoma. The Longhorns are a miserable 0-6 ATS before a Week of Rest and 1-6 as road chalk of more than 14 points. Texas head coach Steve Sarkisian benched his returning QB Quinn Ewers in that disastrous first half against Georgia but was smart enough to bring Ewers back for the second half when Arch Manning failed to light a spark for the Horns. "Quinn's our starting quarterback," Sarkisian said. "I appreciate the fact that we're fortunate enough to have a backup like Arch that can come into the game and provide a spark in some sense, but at the end of the day, Quinn's our starter." Meanwhile, the much-improved Commodores are one of five teams to pull off outright wins as an underdog this season. It's not often you find an 18-point home dog in a matchup of AP ranked teams (Vandy No. 25; Longhorns No. 5). Vandy is also 4-1 versus the number as home dogs of more than two touchdowns, and on the heels of a massive "bubble burst" letdown, we won't be hooking any Horns today, not with UT also into a **fade in this week's 'Behind the Eight Ball' SMART BOX** on page 3. It puts us squarely on the Commies in this contest.

## KANSAS STATE over Kansas by 3

The 6-1 / 3-1 Wildcats own a monster 3.9 net in overall Yards Per Rush (6.3 offense; 2.7 defense) this season. That would normally be enough in a game like this, except the 2-5 / 1-3 Jayhawks counter with a 5.9 Offensive Yards Per Rush attack of their own. It's important to remember that these two squads were picked to finish No. 2 (KSU) and No. 4 (KU) at the start of the season. Lance Leipold's rock chalkers have certainly fallen on hard times, but a 42-14 win over Houston last week snapped a preposterous 0-5 SUATS slide this season against fellow FBS foes. With it, Double-L brings a sturdy 11-7-2 ATS mark in games versus .850 or greater opponents into this rivalry, including **7-1-1 ATS** against those coming off a SUATS win. In addition, a triple revenge-exact motive for Leipold fits like a glove into this fray today. Meanwhile, Chris Kleiman's 6-1 / 3-1 crew is a game back of 4-0 BYU and Iowa State for the top spot in the Big 12. The points become the play in the Homecoming fade.

## Arkansas over MISSISSIPPI STATE by 11

Le'Hog fell by the wayside in last week's 24-point home loss against LSU when the Tigers outsprinted them to the finish line with an 18-0 closing burst. As a result, the 4-3 / 2-2 Razorbacks are all but eliminated in the race for supremacy in the SEC this season, but they do bring a healthy road record into this scrum, going **7-0 ATS** in their last seven away tilts as well as 6-2 ATS in this series when arriving off a loss of 20-plus points. The Bulldogs' 1-13 SU and 4-10 ATS ledger as a dog when coming off a double-digit loss cements the call.

## UTSA over TULSA by 13

It isn't what the 3-4 / 1-2 Roadrunners signed up for this season, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. They've won the stats in their last four contests and appear to be tracking toward a fifth straight bowl game. It's doubtful they'll be sidetracked by the relatively light breezes emanating out of the Golden Hurricane today, not from a Tulsa team that is 1-5 ITS (In The Stats) against fellow FBS opposition this season, losing the stats by a net average of 110.5 yards per game. With Tulsa a tiny 1-7 SU and 2-6 ATS as a dog after scoring ten or fewer points in its last game, we'll be runnin' with the Beep-Beeps today.

## Cincinnati over COLORADO by 3

Neon Deion's accent lights are burning brighter than ever this season with his 5-2 / 3-1 Buffaloes running wild. The most significant

improvement has been on the defensive side of the ball, where his troops' 336 PYG stop-unit is 107 yards per game, superior to last year's 443 yards per game pushovers. Today, though, they go from a three-time dog in their last three games to a favorite against a team in Cincinnati with an identical 5-2 / 3-1 record and a 55-yard-per-game more potent offense. This might be considered a bit of a stretch for a team with only one winning campaign over the last 19 full seasons. Doing so against a foe currently on a **4-1 SU and 5-0-1 ATS** winning run puts us on another live "dog" on the Bearcats.

## COLORADO STATE over New Mexico by 3

Stop us if you've heard this song before, but the Lobos have been "Knocking Three Times" in a row entering today's matchup with the Rams. After a frightful 0-4 start to the season, 3-4 / 2-1 UNM has reeled off three straight wins and suddenly finds itself a half-game back of four teams residing atop the Mountain West. We realize the young wolves (read: Lobos) own the nation's worst overall defense (497 YPG), but its 491 YPG offense is a strong counter. With 4-3 / 2-0 Colorado State **11-2 ATS** in games where both teams arrive off ATS wins, we'll put our infatuation for New Mexico on hold for the moment.

## WYOMING over Utah State by 7

The 1-6 / 1-2 Cowboys keep trying to prove their worthiness, yet keep coming up short each week on the scoreboard. It has much to do with its peashooter offense, which averages 278 yards per game (No. 131). The offense is not the problem with the 1-6 / 0-3 Aggies, though, as they generate 441 Yards Per game (No. 23). So where does that leave us here? Simple. Like Dorothy and Toto, all one needs to do is follow the steps outlined in this week's **SMART BOX** on page 3, where you'll find the Aggies locked into a chokehold 'play against' fade situation. That's the same Utah State squad that has allowed 38 or more points per game in every FBS contest this season. And the same unit that is **2-11 ATS** in its last eleven road games in the FBS competition. As they like to say, around this neck of the woods, it's the "same old, same old..."

## ARIZONA over West Virginia by 8

Is it us, or have the Wildcats slipped a cotter pin or two lately? Following a strong 3-1 start to the season, 'Zona rides a three-game losing skid entering today's matchup with the Mountaineers. The good news, according to our Well-Oiled Machine, is that 3-4 home teams in Game Eights, on a three-game losing streak-exact, are 27-12-1 ATS in conference games since 1997, including **7-1 ATS** when coming off an outright loss as a favorite. They are also **5-1 ATS** as home in conference clashes when coming off a SU home favorite loss. With the Hillbillies **0-9 ATS** in their last nine outright losses as an underdog, you know exactly what to do.

## CALIFORNIA over Oregon State by 6

No, this is not a continuation of a conference series that Oregon State dominated (23-12-1 ATS) before the big breakup. Instead, it's a makeup date pre-arranged by the pimp that sold the Beavers out. One would think it should bring plenty of incentive for OSU. With it, they bring a glossy **4-1 SUATS** series mark into this matchup, with a 53 YPG better offense. Cal rides a four-game losing streak after opening the campaign on a 3-0 winning note. A **5-0 ATS** record in games when coming off four losses-exact figures to spell bounce back for the Bears. The question is whether it can happen against a Beaver with a chip on its shoulder. We'll find out.

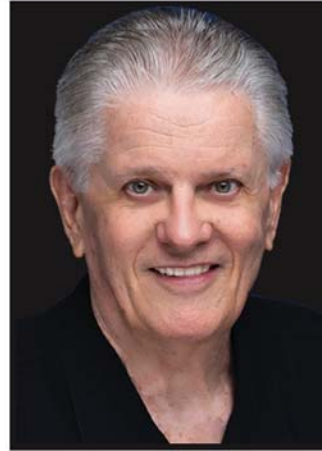
## Washington State over SAN DIEGO STATE by 10

New Aztecs head coach Sean Lewis has six games under his belt this season and has failed to crack the .500 mark. San Diego State has beaten the three teams it should (Texas A&M-Commerce, Hawaii, and Wyoming) while losing to the stronger opponents (Oregon State, California, and Central Michigan). All of which means SDSU could be in trouble here... because 6-1 Washington State is a very good team. Other than a lopsided loss to Boise State, Jake Dickert's Cougars have quietly taken care of business in the strange new world of the Pac-2. Wazzu failed to qualify for a bowl appearance, but these guys could possibly run the table and finish 11-1, stating their case for inclusion in the 12-team CFB Playoffs. Okay, we expect WSU to win this game on the scoreboard, but we're not crazy about laying two TDs on the road with a 400-plus-yard defense. Diego could take advantage, as the Aztecs own 69 YPG, the better defense, and is a Homecoming home dog who has delivered a 5-1 ATS payout when facing a non-conference foe with a .500 or greater win percentage. Let's see school spirit in the stands tonight!!

# MARC LAWRENCE AGAINST THE SPREAD

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### San Jose State over FRESNO STATE by 3

In case you haven't heard, Ken Niumatalolo is steering the Year One ship at San Jose State, and he's guided his crew to a 5-2 record, thanks largely to a Spartans offensive unit that has hit for 400+ yards in the last five games. Standing in the way tonight is another rookie head coach in Tim Skipper, who took over at Fresno after Jeff Tedford stepped down for medical reasons. Skipper's no stranger, though, previously serving as assistant head coach and linebackers coach from 2022 to 2023. Things have gone as expected, save for the merciless 59-14 beating they endured at UNLV almost a month ago. Two factors that really get our attention here. Fresno State has been the underdog in three of the last four home games in this series, yet they're spotting almost a TD to West Coast Sparty. Then there's SJSU's profitable 20-9-1 ATS record in their last 30 games as a conference dog, including 7-1 ATS when coming off a double-digit win. Finally, Niumatalolo may be in his first year with the Spartans, but he's a savvy, veteran head coach with considerably more game experience than Skipper. No Bulldogs for us.

### Wake Forest over STANFORD by 6

Let's check in with the ACC to see how the refugee squads are faring against the establishment. We could say Stanford is having a bad year in the new conference at 2-5, but these guys have been bad for three years, logging identical 3-9 records each season. Second-year head coach Troy Taylor ain't no David Shaw, so don't be surprised if the Cardinal brain trust doesn't opt to move in a new direction soon. The 2024 numbers don't lie: The Tree is 1-3 in conference play, 2-5 overall, and they've been pounded in four straight losses, losing by an average score of 38-10. If that sounds like money-burning to you, the Cardinal's 1-17 ATS failure off back-to-back SUATS losses, plus their 1-12 ATS mark off a SUATS loss versus a foe off a SUATS win, will have you pulling the fire alarm. After a 1-3 start, Wake Forest has stabilized somewhat, winning two games sandwiched around being dismembered by Clemson. Now in his eleventh season at Wake, head coach Dave Clawson saw his 7-year bowl streak snapped in last year's 4-8 struggle, so you know he'll have the Deacs wired for their first appearance as a conference foe at Stanford Stadium. This just in: **The Well-Oiled Machine** has announced that the Demon Deacons are a perfect 14-0 ATS versus foes coming off consecutive losses. Go ahead... you can call this THE trend game of the week!

### 5★ BEST BET

#### WISCONSIN over Penn State by 8

They will be battening down the hatches in Madison this weekend. No, it's not another hurricane settling over the area. It's the third-ranked, 6-0 Nittany Lions rolling into town. It won't be easy, though. Not with PSU head coach Jame Franklin writing checks he can't cash, going 0-2 ATS in his career in these same Game Seven scenarios against foes coming off consecutive momentum-building wins. How is that, you say? No, we're not meteorologists. We're handicappers with a robust database that alerts us to such situations. Remember, Wisconsin has made six appearances in Big Ten championship games – tied for the most with Ohio State. Conversely, PSU's sole appearance came in 2016, when they defeated Wisconsin 38-31 to win the Big Ten title. Adding to the Lions' woes is Franklin's 0-3 SUATS career away mark during regular season games with rest against greater than .666 opponents. With Wisky's 4-0 ATS record at home in this series when both teams are off a win, we hand this puppy off to **THE CLINCHER: The Badgers are 14-2 ATS as a conference home dog with a .700 or greater win percentage, including 13-0 ATS as a dog of more than two points.**

### IOWA over Northwestern by 6

Iowa's M.O. over the last few years has gotten pretty stale. With an offense that would have trouble scoring during a timeout and a defense that plays like they could chew through nails, the Hawkeyes are nothing but a tease. They'll hold their own against similar teams, but after fattening up their season record, they'll get pounded by the good teams yet still qualify for a bowl. That's a pretty harsh assessment of Iowa football under head coach Kirk Ferentz considering the Hawkeyes have gone 38-18 since the start of the 2020 Covid campaign. Still, every time we see them against a quality opponent, they appear to be running in sand, just a step slow. Thus, we have no problem fading this double-digit Homecoming favorite, especially with the **MIDWEEK ALERT** reminding us they are "Leaking Oil" (0-3 ITS, -146 net stats per game average). We won't sugarcoat the situation at Northwestern this year, as they've failed to adapt to new playing venues after being forced out by stadium renovations. The 3-4 Wildcats have been lost of

(continued on next page)

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late, dropping two of their last three contests while scoring just five and three points in two of them. Before you panic, be aware that Iowa has gone 1-3 ATS in the previous four series slugfests and 1-3 ATS when tangling with the Wildcats in Kinnick Stadium. And don't forget that the Hawkeyes have Wisconsin on deck, a dangerous team that seems to have hit its stride. No risk it, no biscuit, right? Start wearing purple!

#### OHIO STATE over Nebraska by 20

This game would be tricky enough to handicap even if Nebraska hadn't been battered, shattered, creamed, and reamed by Indiana last week. However, the traumatic 56-7 loss to the Hoosiers had to leave some scars, and head Husker Matt Rhule likely considered employment elsewhere many times during the rout. And now they must travel to The Shoe to take on No. 4 Ohio State? Rhule hasn't had a crack at the Buckeyes in his not-quite-two seasons with Nebraska, but you can be sure most of the wagering public doesn't think Nebraska has a shot here. We don't think they've got a snowball's chance of upsetting OSU, not when they're **0-25 outright** versus ranked opponents since 2016. Still, Rhule is 31-15-1 ATS away in his career, including **20-5-1 ATS** versus foes off a loss, and Ryan Day's Buckeyes are just 1-4 ATS of late off a SU road loss. Ohio State has the type of offense that can smother a team like Nebraska, but with Penn State on deck and the Buckeyes still licking their wounds from the loss to Oregon, the points become the play.

#### OREGON over Illinois by 13

With USC and UCLA mired near the bottom of the Big Ten standings, Oregon has shown in no uncertain terms that the Ducks were the class of the Pac-12 before the great fissure opened. We're seven weeks into the college football season, and we've already had four different No. 1 teams. Oregon tops this week's poll, moving into the No. 1 spot for the first time in 12 years. There have only been four seasons this century (2007, 2008, 2010, 2012) where at least four teams played a game while ranked No. 1. The Ducks will make it five on Saturday. Of course, everyone will expect a runaway win over No. 20 Illinois, even if the Illini bring a 6-1 record to Autzen Stadium. The pesky Illinois defense has limited foes to just over 18 PPG. They bring a truckload of good numbers to this matchup: **7-1 ATS** off consecutive wins, **7-1 ATS** the last eight as road dogs, **6-1 ATS** the last seven versus undefeated conference opponents, and **5-1 ATS** as dogs of 13 or more points. Can you spell D-A-M-N? Oregon has gotten many breaks this season; it's time for someone to throw a genuine scare in Lanning and company.

#### HAWAII over Nevada by 3

Most of the country will be nodding off by the time this 11:59 clunker hits the airwaves. It's probably a good thing, too, since Hawaii owns a 2-5 record, and Nevada's 3-5 effort isn't much better. First-year Wolf Pack head coach Jeff Choate is struggling to pick up the pieces from Ken Wilson's disastrous 4-20 reign, totally destroying what had been a winning program. Hawaii hasn't played in a bowl game in three years, thanks to a combined record of 14-25, and third-year head coach

Timmy Chang knows how important that is to his players. He's also in an excellent spot to cash tickets for the faithful, with Hawaii on a **10-2 ATS** run off an away game versus a foe off a home game and a 13-6 ATS mark of late as a home dog. With Nevada just **1-4 SUATS** in the last five games against the Warriors and -78 net YPG as the inferior defense in this contest, we're beginning to think the wrong team could be favored here. In our WTF nightcap, go with the islanders and the points.

## PRO FOOTBALL

*Thursday, October 24*

**3★ BEST BET**

**LA RAMS over Minnesota by 8**

The Vikings are unblemished on the road – and that's where they'll live for a while, with four of their next five away from U.S. Bank Stadium, but only one of those trips (Chicago) to visit a .500 or better opponent. For what it's worth, if the season were to end today, all four teams in the NFC North would be playoff-bound. The problem today is Minnesota takes to the road following a division home game, knowing they are just **1-5 ATS** in games after a division hoster. Complicating matters, the Well-Oiled Machine notes that NFL teams are 8-13 SU and 7-14 ATS in their next game after facing the Lions the past two seasons, including **0-4 SUATS** this season. Worse, the **MIDWEEK ALERT** reminds us that Minnesota is a fully-qualified "leaking oil" favorite, having lost the stats in each of its last four games. On the other side of the coin, the well-rested Rams are **5-1 ATS** on Thursdays. With star WR Cooper Kupp expected back tonight, it's Rams or bust with this final mention from **THE CLINCHER: The Rams were 7-1 SU and 6-1-1 ATS last season following their Bye week.**

*Sunday, October 27*

**DETROIT over Tennessee by 7**

Defensive coordinator Brian Flores and the Vikings entered Sunday with one of the fiercest defenses in the NFL, one that had confounded passers like C.J. Stroud and Brock Purdy. All Lions' quarterback Jared Goff did was complete 22 of 25 throws for 280 yards and a pair of scores in a massive 31-29 win. With it, the Lions now lead the NFC North. And it simply added to the lore of Detroit's dead-even home-road dichotomy under Dan Campbell (21-8-1 ATS home; 21-9 ATS away). They have been averaging a league-high 40 points per game since Week Four, and QB Jared Goff has thrown seven touchdown passes and had no interceptions in the last three games. In fact, per USA TODAY, he is one of only four quarterbacks to post a passer rating of at least 140.0 in three consecutive games. So, the question that begs today is whether the Titans look like a team the Lions could play down to their level today. After Tennessee unloaded Pro Bowl WR DeAndre Hopkins to Kansas City this week, it makes one take a long, hard look. However, the deeper you look, the more you understand the move by the Titans. Hopkins, forever a disgruntled receiver, has just 15 catches for 175 yards in 6 games – with 10 of those catches and 127 of those yards coming in two separate games. He's a 32-year-old impending free agent. Hopkins is not the three-time All-Pro he was back in the late 2010s, but QBs Will Levis and Mason Rudolph were severely hampering what he could do on the field. Last season, his 75 receptions and 1,057 yards were all the lowest totals in an entire season played since 2016. The bottom line today, though, is we can't violate our golden rule of taking double-digit with the No. 1 defensive team in the league. With the Nashville Cats **5-0 ATS** in this series and the Motor City Men just **1-7 ATS** against .333 or fewer non-division foes, look for the Lions to get down in the gutter with Tennessee today.

**Baltimore over CLEVELAND by 6**

It just continues to get worse for the Browns. While carrying the weight of DeShaun Watson's absurd contract, and now, staring down a season-ending Achilles tear and lengthy rehab with no guarantee that Watson will be fully healthy for the start of next season, the Browns (1-6) need to develop a plan for their future franchise quarterback because it has become clear that Watson is not that player they envisioned. The Browns owe Watson \$92 million in base salary in 2025 and 2026, and the potential dead cap hit for a release is almost comical

and 2026, and the potential dead cap hit for a release is almost comical for how oppressively high it would be. The Brook Park – err, Cleveland – Browns look like a team picking in the top five – potentially even first overall – in the 2025 NFL draft. Are you listening Shedeur Sanders? Not even the return of the league's best running back, Nick Chubb, mattered in last week's 21-14 "inside-out" loss to the Bengals when Cleveland out-gained Cincinnati 336-223 behind three different QBs. So, with it, you knew the monstrous record of NFL dogs of more than five points would begin to water down sooner than later – and it has. These teams are currently on a 2-6-1 ATS run after opening the season **19-2-1 ATS** through the five weeks of the campaign. Yet somehow, you figure the 22 rushing yards on 11 carries by Chubb last week figures to improve dramatically against Baltimore's cushy-soft defense this week. Nonetheless, the Ravens look remarkably like the best team in the league at this point of the season after posting over 500 yards of offense and Lamar Jackson's 5 TD passes in last Monday's 41-31 'worse than it looked' win over Tampa Bay. That is until you notice the Black Birds allow 25.7 points per game (No. 26). By comparison, it certainly waters down the 31.14 points the Ravens' offense generates. The good news for Baltimore is four of the five teams they've defeated on their current win skein were those with a winning record – save the Bengals – with Edgar Allan Poe's Black Birds averaging 479 YPG in the current five-game win skein. Although Cleveland is just **2-11-1 ATS** as a home dog of more than six points, Jameis Winston getting his long-awaited start for the Browns is a breath of fresh air that is more than welcome at the Dawg Pound today.

### Green Bay over JACKSONVILLE by 1

After three consecutive wins, Green Bay's defense is making the team look like an elite contender. Our initial concern for the Packers is it's possible to look ahead to the Lions next week. They are **0-4 ATS** as non-division road favorites of more than three points. Yes, the Jags' 2-10 ATS record in non-conference games makes it difficult to wrap your arms around them here until you scope out their 7-4-1 ATS mark in games after touching down from London, including **4-0 SUATS** the last four games. We'll opt for the latter over the former and grab the points.

### 4★ BEST BET

#### Indianapolis over HOUSTON by 6

Let's face it. Colts' QB Anthony Richardson is a running back disguised as a quarterback. He was 10-for-24 passing, while he rushed the ball for 56 yards in 14 attempts in Indy's 16-10 win over the rudderless Dolphins and now ranks dead last in NFL Passer Ratings this season with a QB Rating of 60.0 - more than 10 points lower than Will Levis, the league's 2nd worst signal caller. It's safe to say it's time to turn to Joe Flacco, but it's not why Indy made Richardson a first-round draft choice in 2022. It's out of our hands and in the management of the Colts, which is downright scary. We know Richardson is not CJ Stroud, who currently owns 262 passes without an interception. The problem with the Texans today is two-fold. One, they are ravaged with injuries on the defensive side of the ball. And two, they are a 'play against' fade in 'The Clincher' outlined below. With it, Indianapolis is **6-1 ATS** when seeking double revenge-exact and **6-1 ATS** as a conference dog of four or more points. Toss in Houie's **0-4 ATS** ledger at home when coming off back-to-back road games and a **1-5 ATS** mark of late as division home chalk, and we're ready to hand things off to **THE CLINCHER: See Marc's 'Still the Same' BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW column on page 2.**

### MIAMI over Arizona by 8

How bad has this Miami offense been? Try a league-worst 1.04 points per drive. They haven't scored more than 20 points in any game this season. Thus, it should certainly help to get QB Tua Tagovailoa back but don't forget that the Fins weren't playing very well when he was in the lineup, either. After ascending to an 11-4 start last season, the Dolphins have dropped seven of their last nine games. On the other side of the field, Arizona looks to be a team on the come. Or are they? They've been out-gained in all but one game this season and have failed miserably after playing host on Monday nights, going **0-4 ATS**. They are also **0-4 ATS** after hosting a non-conference opponent and 1-4 ATS against the AFC East of late. Some may call them gritty. Others insist they are sh- - ty. All we know for sure is Tua is back, and he is 21-8 SU and 18-11 ATS at Dolphin Stadium. With it, we look for

Miami to improve on its **7-1 ATS** mark versus opponents coming off a Monday Night home game.

### Atlanta over TAMPA BAY by 3

Tampa suffered more than a loss in its 41-31 defeat against Baltimore last week. It lost a vital component, WR Chris Godwin, in Monday Night's loss to the Ravens when he suffered a season-ending leg injury late in the game. In addition, the Bucs lost another star WR, Mike Evans, earlier in the game to a hamstring injury (check his status today). The good news for Baker Mayfield today, though, is Atlanta is again among the league's worst at getting to the quarterback. It was simply a case of too many penalties stalling too many drives in the Falcons' 20-point loss against Seattle last week. The good news is the Dirty Birds are 5-0 ATS after Seattle showdowns, 5-1 ATS as division road dogs, and 5-1 ATS against foes coming off a Monday Night game. With the Bucs 1-6 ATS at home off a home game and 1-5 SUATS in their last six division home contests, we'll be on the take in this division matchup.

### 5★ BEST BET

#### WASHINGTON over Chicago by 13

Seven of the Commanders' nine drives resulted in scores against the Panthers last week, and not all of them were spearheaded by rookie phenom QB Jayden Daniels, who left the game in the first quarter with bruised ribs. Backup QB Marcus Mariota came off the bench and delivered 205 passing yards and two TD passes in his best effort since he was benched by the Falcons late in the 2022 season. If Jaylen Daniels can't go, you must know that Mariota is 10-7 ATS in his NFL career against .666 or greater opponent, including 6-2 ATS at home. On the other side of the quarterback room, Chicago's Caleb Williams continues to win games impressively in his own right. His 88.7 QB Rating tops Aaron Rodgers and Patrick Mahomes as he is now 4-2 SU and 5-1 ATS to start his NFL career. He'll need to overcome da Bears' 2-8 ATS record in games following a Bye week and an even nastier mark called out in the conclusion of this writeup. Meanwhile, the Commanders are **6-0-1 ATS** in games after playing the Panthers and 6-2 ATS in this series. And we didn't even mention the fact that Washington head coach Dan Quinn is the answer inside this week's **TRIVIA TEASER** on page 2. Whether Daniels is behind center or Mariota is called on as the "rally around the injured starting QB," we command you to check out **THE CLINCHER: NFL teams returning home coming off an outright upset win in London are 2-9 SU and 3-8 ATS, including 0-7 SU and 1-6 ATS on the road.**

### NY Jets over NEW ENGLAND by 10

Like Patrick Mahomes, Aaron Rodgers hasn't been very good this season with 6 TD passes and 8 INTs, currently ranked No. 24 overall in Passer Ratings at 82.2. Rodgers turns 41 in December and is under contract for another season. Yet his play and his chemistry with his teammates have been acutely erratic. Even Davante Adams, the experienced Rodgers ally, didn't have a reception in the second half against Pittsburgh on three targets. The Jets have lost four straight and need to clean up mistakes rapidly. Nate Davis of the USA TODAY reports that the six consecutive losses by New England are the longest skid in the Pats' history in 31 years. You can attribute that to the seven different OL combinations this season. When your head coach uses phrases like, "We're a soft football team across the board," you know the drive to work each day will not be pleasant if you are a New England Patriot. The Flyboys' 16-6-1 ATS ledger on the division road coming off a road game likely works here. That is true, and the Pats are **1-5 ATS** in their last six division home games, but truth be told, we have little to no interest in this division walk-through.

### Buffalo over SEATTLE by 8

What a difference a week makes if you live and die in Seattle. Gashed against the run and decimated by injuries in recent weeks, Seattle's defense had arguably its best performance of the season on last week's 34-14 win at Atlanta. After forcing only one takeaway over the past five games, it got three against the Falcons. Meanwhile, after a slow start for the offense in the first half, new addition WR Amari Cooper played a significant role as QB Josh Allen found him four times for 66 yards and a touchdown. Per ESPN: Cooper became the second player in NFL history to record a receiving touchdown in his first game with multiple teams after changing teams midseason. And speaking

*(continued on next page)*

of Allen, he has zero INTs this season. The Bills are **5-1-1 ATS** in this series and **5-0-1 ATS** as single-digit non-division road chalk. Sure, Seattle is **7-1-1 ATS** in its last nine games against the AFC East, but they have been out-yarded in the previous three games, an average of -86 net yards per game. That's the sort of stuff the Bills eat up.

### **LA CHARGERS** over New Orleans by 14

Stop the presses. The Chargers have gone 15 straight drives without scoring a touchdown. It's the thought that keeps Jim Harbaugh up late at night. While Los Angeles is looking to find its identity, Harbaugh knows he is **6-1 ATS** in his NFL career in non-division games when coming off an outright loss as a favorite. The fact that New Orleans head coach Dennis Allen is now 18-23 in his three years as Saints' head coach keeps him up at night as he's rumored to be on the hot seat on Bourbon Street. That and the fact that the Saints' defense allowed 225 rushing yards Thursday, making it a total of 502 rushing yards and four rushing touchdowns in the past two games. With San Diego **5-1 ATS** at home when coming off consecutive away games, we're Bolts' backers today.

### **Philadelphia** over CINCINNATI by 6

Philly's defense entered Sunday coming off a season-best five-sack outing in a win over the Cleveland Browns. The Eagles terrorized Daniel Jones and the Giants to follow that up, sacking New York eight times in a rout. The Giants could never find any solid footing on offense and scored just three points. Because of the sack yardage, New York finished with only 43 net passing yards. The next point Philadelphia scores in the first quarter will be their first this season. From the **MIDWEEK ALERT**: The Eagles are the **ONLY** team in the league to rank inside the Top 10 both offensively and defensively in overall offense and defense at this stage of the season. We realize the Bengals have the Eagles' number (**11-0 ATS** in the last eleven games in the series), but the **MIDWEEK** warns us the Bengals are experiencing some serious leakage, going 0-4 ITS (In The Stats) in the last four games while surrendering season-high yards in two of its last three contests. We'll back the better team as the dog.

### **Kansas City** over LAS VEGAS by 6

The defending champs are 6-0 for the first time in the Patrick Mahomes era, even though Mahomes has been underperforming this season with 6 TD passes and 8 INTs, currently ranked No. 23 overall in Passer rating at 82.5. That's behind Justin Fields and Trevor Lawrence, guys. With that, Kansas City acquired All-Pro WR DeAndre Hopkins from Tennessee for a conditional 4th-round draft pick. We're not sure how they keep doing it, but it seems like any time a key Chiefs player suffers an injury, they can push their short-term replacement into becoming a steady contributor. Running back Isiah Pacheco is out? Enter Kareem Hunt, formerly with the team, and may help solve the offense's red zone issues. The Chiefs entered Sunday ranked 29th in red zone efficiency (38.89%). In a 28-18 win against the San Francisco 49ers, Hunt recorded a pair of red zone rushing scores in the second quarter alone. Kansas City scored touchdowns on four of its five trips inside the 20. Kansas City is now the seventh reigning champion since 2000 to start a season 6-0 on the heels of a Super Bowl triumph. Of those clubs, only the 2004 Patriots managed to leverage such a hot start into another Lombardi Trophy. The Chiefs have lost Hollywood Brown, Rashee Rice, and Justin Watson all for the season. Andy Reid knows well that this is a problematic spot-of-spots this weekend. He is 5-8 ATS in his NFL career when coming off six wins-exact, including **1-5 ATS** in division games. Furthermore, the Chiefs are **1-8 ATS** following a non-conference road game. Granted, the Raiders don't bring much to the table, but that's part of the problem for the Featherheads. Vegas is 6-2 ATS in its last eight division home games, which figures enough to lull Kansas City to sleep in Sin City.

### **DENVER** over Carolina by 4

Stand by. There may be a Bryce Young sighting in Denver on Sunday. It appears that current starter and former Young backup Andy Dalton was reported in a car accident in Charlotte on Tuesday. He's okay, but it just may be the "out" the Panthers need to turn the ball back to Young. Dalton has played in six games for the Panthers this season and started five. The three-time Pro Bowler has thrown seven touchdowns against six interceptions since replacing former No. 1 pick Young at the quarterback position on Sept. 16. Dalton enjoyed a sensational return to life as a starter when he replaced Young in September and



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lit up the Las Vegas Raiders for three touchdowns and 319 yards. He's not been as sharp since then, throwing four touchdowns and six interceptions across his next four contests, all of which have resulted in losses for Carolina. The bright spot for the Panthers is their 8-2 ATS ledger in Game Eight of the season. That and Denver is **0-5-1 ATS** in its last six games against .250 or fewer opponents. This looks like a clothespin call, and taking more than a touchdown from a team that is **1-7-1 ATS** as a favorite of seven or more points coming off a win looks like the right thing to do.

### **SAN FRANCISCO** over Dallas by 3

The weird stat of the week in last week's 49ers-Chiefs showdown was that Brock Purdy and Patrick Mahomes combined for zero TD passes and 5 INTs. What sort of props odds did you get? So, how did the Niners fall to 0-5 against the Chiefs under head coach Kyle Shanahan? A glance at the injury list tells it all: The 49ers were already missing key players such as LB Dre Greenlaw, RB Christian McCaffrey, S Talanoa Hufanga, DT Javon Hargrave, and WR Jauan Jennings. They then lost WRs Brandon Aiyuk (right knee) and Deebo Samuel (illness) early in Sunday's game. Sheesh. Talk about a M.A.S.H. unit. So, what are the chances they bounce back off the carpet when they host the down-and-out Cowboys, coming off their worst loss in the Jerry Jones era? For openers, the Niners are **6-0 ATS** against the NFC East and **5-0 ATS** after facing Kansas City. That sounds good and dandy for a team playing with a full complement of players. But not as much, knowing that Dallas is **6-2 SU** and **7-1 ATS** when coming off a loss of 30-plus points. We're taking it if we're playing it.

**Monday, October 28**

### **PITTSBURGH** over NY Giants by 3

USA TODAY supplies this stat: The number of quarterbacks in the Super Bowl era (since 1966) not to start their team's seventh game after a 4-2 start or better for a reason other than an injury is zero. That's directed squarely at Justin Fields. QB1 Russell Wilson made his first start for the Black and Gold last week, and he delivered, tossing three TD passes, leading the Steelers to an impressive 37-15 win over Aaron Rodgers and the Jets. The most amazing stat in the game was the Steelers running up the final 31 points in the Flyboys' come-from-behind win. The Giants were the Giants in another double-digit loss against Philadelphia. Before knee-jerking to the Steelers tonight, though, you need to know that the G-Men are **5-1 ATS** in their last six games on the Monday Night road. And Monday Night teams coming off consecutive games in which they tallied fewer than 10 points are 9-6 SUATS ... food to chew on.

**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.

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*Below are Picks from the Top 20 Contestants for Week Eight of the 2024 Wise Guys Contest (first-word alphabetical order) – One Point Single Plays Listed*

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<b>Andy Iskoe</b> logical7@cox.net	<b>COLTS +6.5</b>	10-4 / 0-0 / 17 pts	<b>Kelly In Vegas</b> kelly@wagertalk.com	<b>Washington +7.5</b>	11-3 / 0-0 / 16 pts
<b>BB Documented Plays</b> www.the swami.com	<b>Missouri +18.5</b>	8-6 / 1-0 / 12 pts	<b>Marco D'Angelo</b> marco@wagertalk.com	<b>COWBOYS +5.5</b>	9-5 / 0-0 / 14 pts
<b>Captain Morgan</b> playbooksports.com	<b>RAVENS -10.5</b>	9-5 / 0-0 / 13 pts	<b>Monte Kivo</b> mkivo23@gmail.com	<b>Pick Not Available</b>	7-7 / 0-0 / 12 pts
<b>Chris Thurston</b> cthurston18@gmail.com	<b>C Florida +2.5</b>	6-8 / 1-0 / 11 pts	<b>Norm Hitzges</b> norm1310@gmail.com	<b>Wash State -14.5</b>	9-5 / 0-0 / 14 pts
<b>CR Plays</b> jeffparetts@gmail.com	<b>FALCONS +2.5</b>	9-5 / 0-0 / 14 pts	<b>Prime Sports Network</b> nanadepalma1@aol.com	<b>Navy +11.5</b>	7-7 / 0-0 / 11 pts
<b>Doc's Sports</b> max@docsports.com	<b>Duke +11.5</b>	8-6 / 0-0 / 13 pts	<b>Ralph Michaels</b> calsports@aol.com	<b>Kansas State -10.5</b>	8-4 / 0-0 / 14 pts
<b>Dr. Alan</b> Caprec88@aol.com	<b>W. Michigan -17.5</b>	7-7 / 0-0 / 10 pts	<b>Robbie Gainous</b> r_gainous@yahoo.com	<b>Cincinnati +4.5</b>	7-5 / 0-0 / 11 pts
<b>James Patrick</b> jamespatricksports@gmail.com	<b>Wisconsin +6.5</b>	8-6 / 0-0 / 12 pts	<b>Ross Benjamin</b> benjaminsports@yahoo.com	<b>PACKERS Over 48.5</b>	8-6 / 1-0 / 12 pts
<b>Jeff Michaels</b> jmsports@gmx.com	<b>FALCONS +2.5</b>	10-4 / 0-0 / 15 pts	<b>Stormin' Norman</b> tica0004@hotmail.com	<b>Washington +7.5</b>	11-3 / 0-0 / 15 pts
<b>JH Sportsline</b> jhsportsline@yahoo.com	<b>N Carolina +5.5</b>	8-4 / 0-0 / 11 pts	<b>Tony Mejia</b> tnyce1414@gmail.com	<b>NY JETS -7.5</b>	8-4 / 0-0 / 11 pts

**ALSO WITH 10 POINTS: Dwayne Bryant, Luis Stopa and Mike Muzyka?**

To view the entire Wise Guys standings, including Triple, Double and Single plays, visit [www.PlaybookSports.com](http://www.PlaybookSports.com) and cash in this weekend for only \$15!

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# THE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP: O/U STYLE

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

All games played on this week's NFL schedule are listed below. As always, the number listed first is the 'OVER' and the number listed second is the 'UNDER'. If you like what you see, there's much more – including **5 NFL O/U BEST BETS** – inside the **2024 Playbook 'TOTALS' TIPSHEET** by Victor King – the definitive weekly OU newsletter. A single issue is only \$11.00. Rest-of-Season subscription is \$74.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2024 "Totals Train"! **\*This week's GAME 8 Playbook O/U TREND play: Colts @ Texans 'OVER' the TOTAL'**

## 2024 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK EIGHT

GAME MATCHUPS	KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
<b>Minnesota (Open: 46) LA RAMS</b>	5-0 OU aft Det... 5-1 OU on Thursdays... 6-3 OU aft div HG... but 0-9 OU L9 as RF's... 1-3 OU Game 7 7-1 OU L8 home vs Min (58.2)... but 0-3 OU bef Sea... 1-9 OU Game 7... 1-5 OU as non-div HD's... 1-4 OU Thursdays
<b>Tennessee (45) DETROIT</b>	4-1 OU vs NFC North... 3-1 OU L4 vs Det (61.0)... but 1-4 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 2-5 OU Game 7... 3-6 OU aft Buf 4-0 OU L4 vs AFC South... 5-1 OU as favs > 7 pts... 4-1 OU aft div RG... 4-1 OU Game 7... but 0-3 OU aft Min
<b>Baltimore (43) CLEVELAND</b>	6-1 OU Game 8... 6-3 OU aft Mon gm... but 0-4 OU aft TB... 1-7 OU aft non-conf RG... 3-15 OU in 2nd of BB RG 6-2 OU aft Cin... but 0-6 OU 2nd of 3 straight HG... 0-4 OU Game 8... 1-4 OU 2nd of BB div gms... 1-3 OU vs Bal (38.5)
<b>Green Bay (48) JACKSONVILLE</b>	5-0 OU aft non-conf HG... 5-0 OU as non-div RF's > 3 pts... but 0-3 OU Game 8... 1-3 OU bef Det... 3-6 OU non-conf RG 3-0 OU L3 vs NFC North... but 0-3 OU Game 8... 0-3 OU aft NEng... 1-6 OU L7 non-conf HG... 1-3 OU L4 vs GB
<b>Indianapolis (47.5) HOUSTON</b>	6-1 OU w/ doub revenge... 5-1 OU bef non-conf RG... 4-1 OU L5 div RG... 3-1 OU aft Mia... 5-2 OU Game 8 4-0 OU Game 8... 3-1 OU L4 vs Indy (53.0)... 3-1 OU vs doub revenge... 5-2 OU home off BB RG
<b>Arizona (48) MIAMI</b>	5-0 OU L5 vs Mia (49.4)... 7-2 OU bef Chi... 3-1 OU Game 8... but 1-6 OU aft non-conf HG... 1-3 OU aft Mon gm 3-1 OU bef div RG... but 1-5 OU vs opp off Mon gm... 1-8 OU L9 non-conf HG... 1-5 OU as non-div favs 4 < pts
<b>Atlanta (49) TAMPA BAY</b>	3-0 OU Game 8... 3-1 OU L4 vs TB (49.0)... 6-2 OU aft Sea... but 1-5 OU vs opp off Mon gm... 2-10 OU as dogs 4 < pts 6-0 OU Game 8... 5-1 OU w/ sing revenge... 3-1 OU aft Mon HG... but 1-9 OU aft non-conf HG... 1-5 OU 2nd of BB HG
<b>Chicago (48) WASHINGTON</b>	8-1 OU vs sing revenge... 6-2 OU non-div dogs 4 < pts... 7-3 OU aft score 35+ pts... but 0-3 OU aft Bye... 1-5 OU bef Arz 5-1 OU L6 vs Chi (53.0)... 6-2 OU vs opp off Bye... but 0-4 OU aft Car... 1-6 OU bef div RG... 2-7 OU bef NY Giants
<b>Ny Jets (39.5) NEW ENGLAND</b>	0-7 OU L7 div RG... 0-6-1 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 1-4 OU as conf favs 4 > pts... 1-4 OU bef Hou... 1-3 OU Game 8 6-1 OU as non-div dogs 4 > pts... 3-1 OU Game 8... but 0-5 OU L5 vs NYJ (24.8)... 0-4 OU bef Ten... 2-5 OU L7 div HG
<b>Buffalo (47.5) SEATTLE</b>	10-1 OU L11 vs NFC West... 5-2 OU bef Mia... but 1-5 OU Game 8... 1-5 OU non-div RF's < 10 pts... 1-4 OU aft Ten 10-0 OU L10 vs Buf (53.4)... 3-0 OU aft Atl... 3-1 OU L4 non-conf HG... but 1-6 OU Game 8... 2-5 OU in 1st of BB HG
<b>New Orleans (40) LA CHARGERS</b>	6-0 OU L6 vs LAC (60.8)... but 0-5 OU vs opp off Mon gm... 1-6 OU non-conf RG... 1-5 OU bef Car... 1-4 OU aft Thur gm 4-1 OU Game 7... 5-2 OU aft Mon gm... but 0-9 OU vs opp off Thur gm... 0-4 OU aft non-conf RG... 1-4 OU home off BB RG
<b>Philadelphia (48.5) CINCINNATI</b>	1-5 OU aft NYG... 1-4 OU aft div RG... 1-3 OU as non-div dogs 4 < pts... 1-3 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 2-4 OU Game 7 3-0 OU aft Clev... 5-1 OU L6 non-conf HG... but 1-6 OU L7 vs NFC East... 1-4 OU Game 8... 1-3 OU aft div RG
<b>Kansas City (43.5) LAS VEGAS</b>	6-2 OU L8 vs LV (54.4)... 0-4 OU aft SF... 1-6 OU aft non-conf RG... 1-4 OU L5 div RG... 3-7 OU Game 7 3-0 OU home vs div LY... 3-0 OU bef Cin... but 0-3 OU Game 8... 1-6 OU vs sing revenge... 1-5 OU aft non-conf RG
<b>Carolina (43) DENVER</b>	4-1 OU vs opp off Thur gm... 7-3 OU aft Wash... 4-2 OU 2nd of BB RG... but 2-11 OU bef NORl... 2-5-1 OU L8 vs Den (41.0) 7-1 OU aft NORl... 4-1 OU L5 vs .250 < opp... 4-1 OU non-conf HF's 3 > pts... but 0-8 OU aft Thur gm... 1-5 OU Game 8
<b>Dallas (49) SAN FRANCISCO</b>	4-0 OU vs NFC West LY... 3-0 OU L3 vs SF (58.6)... 8-1 OU aft Bye... but 0-4 OU aft score 10 < pts... 2-6 OU 1st of BB RG 5-0 OU Game 8... 3-0 OU aft KC... 4-1 OU in 2nd of BB HG... 4-1 OU home bef Bye... but 0-4 OU aft non-conf HG
<b>Ny Giants (38) PITTSBURGH</b>	3-1 OU away aft div HG... 3-1 OU on Mondays... but 0-10 OU L10 vs AFC North... 0-3 OU Game 8... 2-4 OU aft Pit 5-1 OU on Mondays... 4-1 OU in 2nd of BB HG... but 0-4 OU L4 vs NYG (39.8)... 1-6 OU non-conf HG... 2-6 OU bef Bye

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# KENNY WHITE'S 2024 FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS

Power Ratings courtesy of [KennyWhiteSports.com](http://KennyWhiteSports.com)

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

Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF
<b>NCAA</b>														
125	Air Force	Mountain West	91	4.5	44	Kansas	Big 12	111.5	4.5	52	Rutgers	Big Ten	109.5	4.5
129	Akron	Mid-American	89	2	13	Kansas St	Big 12	120	5.5	104	Sam Houston St	Conference USA	97.5	3.5
5	Alabama	Southeastern	127.5	6	133	Kennesaw St	Conference USA	85	3.5	106	San Diego St	Mountain West	96.5	3.5
87	Appalachian St	Sun Belt	100.5	4.5	134	Kent St	Mid-American	81	4	102	San Jose St	Mountain West	98	4.5
46	Arizona	Big-12	111	5	20	Kentucky	Southeastern	116	4	22	SMU	Atlantic Coast	115.5	4.5
59	Arizona St	Big-12	107.5	3.5	59	Liberty	Conference USA	107.5	4	87	South Alabama	Sun Belt	100.5	3
32	Arkansas	Southeastern	114	4.5	63	Louisiana	Sun Belt	107	3.5	32	South Carolina	Southeastern	114	5.5
91	Arkansas St	Sun Belt	100	3.5	109	Louisiana Tech	Conference USA	95.5	4.5	121	Southern Miss	Sun Belt	94	4
67	Army	American Athletic	105.5	3.5	17	Louisville	Atlantic Coast	118	5.5	98	Stanford	Atlantic Coast	99	4
24	Auburn	Southeastern	115	5.5	11	LSU	Southeastern	121.5	6	57	Syracuse	Atlantic Coast	108	5
131	Ball St	Mid-American	88	3	91	Marshall	Sun Belt	100	4	17	TCU	Big 12	116.5	5.5
42	Baylor	Big 12	112.5	4	53	Maryland	Big Ten	109	4.5	127	Temple	American Athletic	90	3
17	Boise St	Mountain West	116.5	5.5	46	Memphis	American Athletic	111	3	6	Tennessee	Southeastern	126.5	6
67	Boston College	Atlantic Coast	105.5	4	9	Miami (FL)	Atlantic Coast	125	3.5	3	Texas	Southeastern	129	5.5
81	Bowling Green	Mid-American	102	2	83	Miami (OH)	Mid-American	101.5	2.5	16	Texas A&M	Southeastern	118.5	6
125	Buffalo	Mid-American	91	3	28	Michigan	Big Ten	114.5	5.5	53	Texas St	Sun Belt	109	4
28	BYU	Big 12	114.5	5	55	Michigan St	Big Ten	108.5	4.5	57	Texas Tech	Big 12	108	5.5
44	California	Atlantic Coast	111.5	4	123	Middle Tenn St	Conference USA	91.5	3.5	77	Toledo	Mid-American	103.5	4
109	C Michigan	Mid-American	95.5	2.5	51	Minnesota	Big Ten	110	5	113	Troy	Sun Belt	95	4
109	Charlotte	American Athletic	95.5	2.5	91	Mississippi St	Southeastern	100	5	48	Tulane	American Athletic	110.5	3
55	Cincinnati	Big 12	108.5	4.5	20	Missouri	Southeastern	116	5	123	Tulsa	American Athletic	91.5	3.5
12	Clemson	Atlantic Coast	120.5	5.5	79	Navy	American Athletic	103	4	109	UAB	American Athletic	95.5	4.5
83	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	101.5	3.5	63	NC State	Atlantic Coast	107	4.5	28	UCF	Big 12	114.5	4.5
28	Colorado	Big 12	114.5	4.5	37	Nebraska	Big Ten	113.5	5	59	UCLA	Big Ten	107.5	3.5
98	Colorado St	Mountain West	99	4.5	105	Nevada	Mountain West	97	4	91	UConn	Independent	100	3.5
71	Duke	Atlantic Coast	105	4.5	101	New Mexico	Mountain West	98.5	3	113	UL-Monroe	Sun Belt	95	3
91	East Carolina	American Athletic	100	4	131	New Mexico St	Conference USA	88	4	129	UMass	Independent	89	2
113	E Michigan	Mid-American	95	2	63	North Carolina	Atlantic Coast	107	4.5	43	UNLV	Mountain West	112	3
32	Florida	Southeastern	114	5.5	77	North Texas	American Athletic	103.5	3.5	14	USC	Big Ten	119.5	5.5
113	Florida Atlantic	American Athletic	95	3	83	No Illinois	Mid-American	101.5	3.5	81	USF	American Athletic	102	3
122	Florida Int'l	Conference USA	93.5	2.5	83	Northwestern	Big Ten	101.5	3	38	Utah	Big 12	113	5.5
59	Florida St	American Coast	107.5	6	10	Notre Dame	Independent	122	5.5	113	Utah St	Mountain West	95	4
71	Fresno St	Mountain West	105	4.5	1	Ohio State	Big Ten	130	6.5	127	UTEP	Conference USA	90	3
1	Georgia	Southeastern	130	6.5	106	Ohio U	Mid-American	96.5	4.5	76	UTSA	American Athletic	104	3
102	Geo Southern	Sun Belt	98	4	24	Oklahoma	Southeastern	115	5.5	71	Vanderbilt	Southeastern	105	4
113	Georgia St	Sun Belt	95	2	38	Oklahoma St	Big 12	113	5	63	Virginia	Atlantic Coast	107	4
48	Georgia Tech	Atlantic Coast	110.5	4.5	96	Old Dominion	Sun Belt	99.5	2.5	32	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	114	5
113	Hawaii	Mountain West	95	4.5	6	Ole Miss	Southeastern	126.5	5.5	71	Wake Forest	Atlantic Coast	105	4.5
67	Houston	Big 12	105.5	4	4	Oregon	Big Ten	128	5.5	38	Washington	Big Ten	113	5.5
48	Illinois	Big Ten	110.5	4.5	79	Oregon St	Pac-12	103	5.5	71	Washington St	Pac-12	105	4
22	Indiana	Big Ten	115.5	4.5	8	Penn St	Big Ten	126	6	32	West Virginia	Big 12	114	5.5
24	Iowa	Big Ten	115	5	38	Pitt	Atlantic Coast	113	4.5	87	W Kentucky	Conference USA	100.5	4
15	Iowa St	Big 12	119	5.5	87	Purdue	Big Ten	100.5	4.5	108	W Michigan	Mid-American	96	4
98	Jacksonville St	Conference USA	99	5.5	96	Rice	American Athletic	99.5	3	24	Wisconsin	Big Ten	115	5.5
67	James Madison	Sun Belt	105.5	4.5						113	Wyoming	Mountain West	95	5


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

Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF
<b>NFL</b>														
28	Arizona Cardinals	NFC West	97.5	2.5	13	Houston Texans	AFC South	102.5	2.5	18	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	100.5	1.5
10	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	103	2.5	25	Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	99	2	31	New England Pats	AFC East	94	1.5
2	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	108	3.5	18	Jacksonville Jaguars	AFC South	100.5	1.5	26	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	98	2
6	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	104.5	3	1	Kansas City Chiefs	AFC West	110.5	2	29	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	96.5	1.5
32	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	92.5	1.5	22	Las Vegas Raiders	AFC West	99.5	2.5	10	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	103	2
20	Chicago Bears	NFC North	100	2.5	17	L.A. Chargers	AFC West	101.5	1.5	4	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	107	1.5
8	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	103.5	2	29	L.A. Rams	NFC West	96.5	2	7	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	104	1.5
22	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	99.5	2.5	26	Miami Dolphins	AFC East	98	2.5	2	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	108	1.5
13	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	102.5	3						13	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	102.5	1.5
22	Denver Broncos	AFC West	99.5	2.5						10	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	103	2
5	Detroit Lions	NFC North	106.5	2.5						20	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	100	2
8	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	103.5	2.5						13	Wash Commanders	NFC East	102.5	1.5

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# THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS

A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT STAR-RATED BEST BET SELECTIONS

<b>FOR WEEK ENDING MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024</b>		<b>3★ BEST BET</b>	<b>4★ BEST BET</b>	<b>5★ BEST BET</b>
	<b>COLLEGE</b>	<b>UCF</b>	<b>LSU</b>	<b>WISCONSIN</b>
	<b>NFL</b>	<b>LA RAMS</b>	<b>COLTS</b>	<b>COMMANDERS</b>
	<b>UPSET GAME</b>	<b>DUKE</b>	<b>SUBSCRIBE TO PLAYBOOK TODAY 800.752.9266</b>	

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## 2024 COLLEGE & PRO FOOTBALL - OCTOBER 22-28

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

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

	OL	PB		OL	PB		OL	PB		OL	PB					
<b>TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22</b>																
			127	E MICHIGAN 3:30 PM AKRON	3'	7	167	UTAH 7:00 PM HOUSTON	3'	3	209	NEBRASKA 12:00 PM OHIO ST				
			128				168				210		FOX	25'	20	
101	SAM HOUSTON ST 7:30 PM FLA INT'L	6'	10	129	SOUTHERN MISS 3:30 PM		169	OKLAHOMA 12:00 PM OLE MISS			211	ILLINOIS 3:30 PM OREGON				
102				130	J MADISON	23'	31	170			212		CBS	21	13	
103	UTEP 8:00 PM LOUISIANA TECH			131	NO ILLINOIS 3:30 PM	11	18	171	OKLAHOMA ST 3:30 PM		3	213	NEVADA 11:59 PM HAWAII	2'		
104		7	14	132	BALL ST			172	BAYLOR	4'		214			3	
<b>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23</b>																
				133	GEORGIA TECH 12:00 PM VA TECH	8'	3	173	TULANE 12:00 PM NORTH TEXAS	8'		<b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27</b>				
105	LIBERTY 7:00 PM KENNESAW ST	24	20	135	BUFFALO 12:00 PM OHIO	5	10	175	MISSOURI 3:30 PM ALABAMA	14	6	263	TENNESSEE 1:00 PM DETROIT	11'	7	
106				136				176				264		FOX	10'	6
107	MIDDLE TENN ST 7:30 PM JAX STATE			137	GEORGIA ST 1:00 PM APPALACHIAN ST	8	13	177	CHARLOTTE 12:00 PM MEMPHIS	19	11	265	BALTIMORE 1:00 PM CLEVELAND			
108		22	14	138				178				266		CBS		
<b>THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24</b>																
				139	KENT ST 3:30 PM W MICHIGAN	17	13	179	TEXAS 4:15 PM VANDERBILT	18	10	267	GREEN BAY 1:00 PM JACKSONVILLE	5	1	
109	MINNESOTA 8:15 PM LA RAMS	3		141	SMU 8:00 PM DUKE	11		181	KANSAS 8:00 PM KANSAS ST	10	3	268			6	
110			8	142			1	182				269	INDIANAPOLIS			6
111	SYRACUSE 7:30 PM PITTSBURGH			143	C MICHIGAN 2:00 PM MIAMI OH	11'	16	183	ARKANSAS 12:45 PM MISSISSIPPI ST	7	11	270	HOUSTON			6
112		5	1	144				184				271	ARIZONA 1:00 PM MIAMI	3'	8	
113	GA SOUTHERN 7:00 PM OLD DOM		7	145	TEMPLE 2:00 PM E CAROLINA	7	6	185	UTSA 3:30 PM TULSA	8	13	272			3	
114		2		146				186				273	ATLANTA 1:00 PM TAMPA BAY			3
<b>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25</b>																
				147	AUBURN 7:45 PM KENTUCKY	2'	1	187	CINCINNATI 10:15 PM COLORADO		3	274	CHICAGO 4:25 PM WASHINGTON			13
115	LOUISVILLE 7:30 PM BOST COLL	7		148			3	188		4		275			7'	10
116			3	149	RICE 3:30 PM UCONN	6'		189	NEW MEXICO 5:00 PM COLORADO ST	6	3	276				
117	RUTGERS 11:00 PM USC			150				190				277	NY JETS 1:00 PM N ENGLAND			8
118		14'	20	151	NOTRE DAME 12:00 PM (MetLife Stadium) NAVY	13'	3	191	UTAH ST 7:00 PM WYOMING	2	7	278			3	8
119	BOISE ST 10:30 PM UNLV	3	6	152				192				279	BUFFALO 4:05 PM SEATTLE			
195				153	TROY 7:00 PM ARKANSAS ST	7	3	193	WEST VIRGINIA 6:00 PM ARIZONA	2'	8	280			7	14
196				154				194				281	NEW ORLEANS 4:05 PM LA CHARGERS			
<b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26</b>																
				155	MICHIGAN ST 7:30 PM MICHIGAN	5	1	197	OREGON ST 4:00 PM CALIFORNIA	9	6	282			2'	6
119	BOWLING GREEN 3:30 PM TOLEDO	3	1	156				198				283	PHILADELPHIA 1:00 PM CINCINNATI			
120				157	MARYLAND 3:30 PM MINNESOTA	5	6	199	WASHINGTON ST 10:30 PM S DIEGO ST	14	10	284			10'	6
121	FLORIDA ST 7:00 PM MIAMI FLA			158				200				285	KANSAS CITY 4:25 PM LAS VEGAS			
122		21	24	159	WASHINGTON 12:00 PM INDIANA	6		201	SAN JOSE ST 8:00 PM FRESNO ST	6	3	286			7	4
123	BYU 3:30 PM C FLORIDA	1'		160				202				287	CAROLINA 4:25 PM DENVER			
124			10	161	TEXAS TECH 3:30 PM TCU	6	11	203	WAKE FOREST 3:30 PM STANFORD	2'	6	288				
125	N CAROLINA 12:00 PM VIRGINIA			162				204				289	DALLAS 8:20 PM SAN FRANCISCO			3
126		5	10	163	UL MONROE 5:00 PM S ALABAMA	7'		205	PENN ST 7:30 PM WISCONSIN	6'		290				
<b>MONDAY, OCTOBER 28</b>																
				164				206				291	NY GIANTS 8:15 PM PITTSBURGH			
				165	LSU 7:30 PM TEXAS A&M		10	207	NORTHWESTERN 3:30 PM IOWA	14	6	292			5'	3
				166		3		208								