Marc Lawrence's Weekly PLAYBOOK $12

THE BEST FOOTBALL NEWSLETTER ON THE PLANET™

**Volume 38, Issue 12**

November 7-13, 2023

Marc's CFB False Favorite Game Of The Year Goes This Weekend!

COLLEGE AND NFL WINNERS GALORE!

100% 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*
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- *Wise Guys Handicapping Contest*
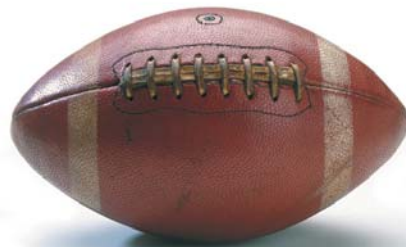
GET SMART **GET PLAYBOOK** **GET EVERY EDGE IMAGINABLE**

CAROLINE, NO
A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping

*Break my heart
I want to go and cry
It's so sad
to watch a sweet thing die
Oh, Caroline why*

The inevitability of change can be hard to swallow. It was never better defined than in the Beach Boys hit song, Caroline, No. It was said to be a poignant exploration of the human experience, capturing the feelings of how one changes as one grows older after breaking away from what used to be to what things are like now.

For NFL teams devoid of respect, they receive a shot in the arm every time they manage to pull of an upset, underdog victory. Let them win three successive games, all as a pick or underdogs, and suddenly they feel like they belong.

Unfortunately, when cast into a new role, the feeling can be fleeting, especially when they find themselves not fully focused. To better illustrate the point, if we were to –

PLAY AGAINST any NFL team coming off three consecutive outright 'pick' or underdog wins, if they are facing a non-division opponent

– we would be cashing winning tickets, and that's what it's all about in this business. That's because NFL teams crash back to earth like misguided astronauts in this role, going 22-38-2 ATS, including **7-23-2 ATS** when not taking points for a fourth consecutive game (pick or favored).

Even more jaw-dropping is how these same teams perform in games with an Over/Under total set at 37 or more points. Try **3-20-1 ATS** on for size. And while you're at it, you'll want to try **New Orleans** on for size this Sunday as we **fade Minnesota** in this tantalizing role.

So, like a child overdosing on too much ice cream, there is always a melting point waiting to happen for NFL teams riding a sugar-high. The crash is going to happen, and when it does it's usually a doozy. To better prepare for it, I suggest you heed the words of the fabulous Beach Boys when they sang…

*Could I ever find in you again
Things that made me love you
so much then
Could we ever bring 'em back
once they have gone
Oh, Caroline no*

Look: The three best weeks of the 2023 football season are here, and they start this week with my **10-Star November to Remember** special package offer. Included will be every CFB and NFL release that I make through the end of November, including my **10-Star College Football Game of the Year** – and each of my 5-Star NFL and CFB Game of the Month selections – all for just $299. We **swept the board** on all three of these huge plays last season while producing a documented **net profit of $2,660**. Click here for instant sign-up service, or give my office a call for fast, friendly customer service at **800.321.7777**. You'll be glad you did!!

Marc Lawrence

TRIVIA TEASER

THIS WEEK'S AMAZING SITUATIONAL PLAY

This head coach shines in games when installed as a dog of more than 3 points in his career, going 11-4 ATS, including **8-1 ATS** when seeking revenge. Who is this week's best in show dog?
For the Trivia Teaser answer, turn to page 14.

AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK

PLAY AGAINST any college football favorite who defeated Notre Dame as an underdog in its last game if they beat the spread by 10 or more points in the win and they are facing a .600 or fewer opponent.

Play AGAINST:
CLEMSON TIGERS (11/11)

ANTI-IRISH

ATS W-L Record S/1980:

15-0-1 (100%)

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

2-MINUTE HANDICAP

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

College Football Games

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

TEAMS	KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS
	Thursday, November 9
Virginia **LOUISVILLE**	SERIES: 6-3 L9… 4-1 on Weekdays… 15-4 vs .750 > conf opp SERIES: Host 5-2… 5-0 bef Miami-Fla… 5-1 in 3rd straight HG
	Saturday, November 11
Alabama **KENTUCKY**	SERIES: 3-1 L4… 2-7 as conf RF's 3 > pts vs > .500 opp 5-0 as conf HD's > 4 pts… 4-0 Last Home Game… 3-1 bef SC
Miami-Fla **FLORIDA ST**	SERIES: Visitor 7-2… 6-3 w/ dbl conf revenge… 3-7 Game 10 7-1 Game 10… 4-1 aft Pitt… 4-12 as favs vs dbl conf revenge
Mississippi **GEORGIA**	4-1 as conf dogs 14 < pts… 1-4 away vs undef conf opp SERIES: 3-1 L4… 7-1 Game 10… 9-3 as conf favs 13 < pts
Michigan **PENN ST**	SERIES: 4-1 L5… 11-2 vs dbl conf revenge… 5-1 in 1st of BB RG 4-0 w/ dbl conf revenge… 4-1 bef Rutgers… 2-5 as HD's 14 < pts
Utah **WASHINGTON**	SERIES: 5-2 L7… 4-1 bef Arizona… 10-3 as RD's 10 < pts 0-12 aft USC… 0-4 bef Oreg St… 0-4-1 as conf HF's 10 < pts
Usc **OREGON**	1-5 as conf dogs 6 > pts… 3-8 away vs .800 > conf opp SERIES: 4-1 L5… 5-0 aft California… … 5-2 bef Ariz St
Tennessee **MISSOURI**	SERIES: 4-0 L4… 3-0 bef Georgia… 4-1 as conf RF's 14 < pts 3-0 bef Fla… 4-1 as conf dogs 8 < pts… 3-1 in 1st of BB HG
Texas **TCU**	4-1 away w/ sing conf revenge… 6-3 as RF's 13 < pts SERIES: 7-2 L9… 8-1 as HD's 7 > pts… 0-4 L4 VS sing conf rev

NFL Games

TEAMS	KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS
	Thursday, November 9
Carolina **CHICAGO**	SERIES: Visitor 5-2… 5-2 bef Dal… 2-14 L16 vs .250 < opp 3-1 Thursdays vs non-div… 1-6 bef Det… 2-5 bef div RG
	Sunday, November 12
Indianapolis **New England**	6-1 in 2nd of BB RG… 5-1 vs AFC East… 1-6 aft non-conf RG SERIES: 4-2 L6… 3-1 L4 vs AFC South… 8-3 bef Bye
Cleveland **BALTIMORE**	4-2 aft non-conf HG… 1-5 L6 div RG… 2-9 in 1st of BB div gms SERIES: 6-2 L8… 0-6 aft non-conf HG… 1-6 L7 div HG
Houston **CINCINNATI**	SERIES: Visitor 5-0… 1-6 aft non-conf HG… 3-6 L9 vs AFC North 8-1 bef div RG… 5-1 as non-div HF's 4 > pts… 6-2 bef Balt
San Francisco **JACKSONVILLE**	SERIES: 5-0 L5… 5-1 off 3+ SU losses… 1-4 L5 non-conf RG 9-3 aft Bye… 1-16 L17 vs NFC West… 1-9 L10 non-conf HG
New Orleans **MINNESOTA**	SERIES: 5-1 L6… 6-1 bef Bye… 8-2 as non-div RF's 4 < pts 5-1 bef Den… 6-3-1 vs non-div revenge… 1-4 as HD's < 7 pts
Green Bay **PITTSBURGH**	SERIES: 3-1 L4… 4-1 bef LAC… 1-3 as non-conf RD's 4 < pts 9-0 in 3rd straight HG… 5-2 aft Thur gm… 1-4 aft Tenn
Tennessee **TAMPA BAY**	SERIES: 7-1 L8… 6-1 aft Thur gm… 5-1 L6 non-conf RG 7-3 bef SF… 0-4 vs opp off Thur gm… 2-5 L7 as non-conf HF's
Atlanta **ARIZONA**	3-1 L2Y vs NFC West… 0-5 L5 non-div RG… 3-11 aft Min SERIES: Host 5-1… 4-0 L2Y vs NFC South… 7-2 L9 non-div HG
Detroit **LA CHARGERS**	4-0 vs opp off Monday gm… 5-2 as non-div fav/dog 3 < pts SERIES: Host 4-0… 5-1 aft Monday RG… 4-2 vs NFC North
Ny Giants **DALLAS**	7-3 aft non-conf RG… 3-6 w/ div revenge… 3-6 as RD's 7 > pts SERIES: 4-1 L5… 5-1 L3Y as div HF's… 9-2 in 2nd of BB div gms
Washington **SEATTLE**	SERIES: 8-1-1 L10… 3-1 as dogs vs NFC West… 6-2 aft NEng 4-1 aft Balt… 4-1 aft non-conf RG… 4-1 home vs NFC East
Ny Jets **LAS VEGAS**	8-4 aft Monday HG… 0-4 aft LAC… 3-10 away vs AFC West SERIES: Host 4-0… 1-4 aft non-conf HG… 3-9 L12 vs AFC East
	Monday, November 13
Denver **BUFFALO**	9-3 aft Bye… 0-9 off SU dog win… 1-4 L5 vs AFC East SERIES: 7-0 L7… 5-2 vs opp off Bye… 1-4 Monday HG

THE SMART BOX

AS THE NOOSE TIGHTENS

November is, unquestionably, the best time of the season for sports fans. The NFL enters its second-half race. College Football concludes with teams scurrying for bowl bids while the NBA and College Basketball tip off new campaigns. It's also a great time for handicappers as value aplenty abounds.

Some of the best value occurs when we focus on beating undefeated teams at this stage of the season. That's because the deeper these teams get into the year, the more pressure there is on them to remain unbeaten. As a result, the noose certainly gets tighter and tighter each week, especially when these perfect teams take to the road.

This is confirmed by the fact that, since 1980, undefeated College Football teams playing on the regular season road as favorites from Game Nine out facing .666 or greater opponents are just 44-27-2 SU and 28-44-1 (38.8%).

When dressed up as favorites of -6 or more points they dip to 32-14 SU and 16-31- ATS (34%). Say hello to **Michigan**.

Worse, these same guys have seen their necks snap like they're swinging from the gallows stanchion when they're when facing a foe that surrenders fewer than 15 PPG, going 16-7 SU and 6-19 ATS. And when these same teams are coming off a win of 20-plus points, they evaporate to **1-11 ATS** since 1990.

As you've come to know, a warning signal has been sounded for the **Wolverines** this week. Gentlemen, please step forward…

NFL WEEK TEN BYES:
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS, LOS ANGELES RAMS, MIAMI DOLPHINS, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

Texas Tech is 18-2 SU in its last 20 games against Kansas, having been favored 18 times. The two times they were the underdog, they won both games outright.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Tuesday, November 7

Ohio over BUFFALO by 11

If you're not a fan of MAC football, there's no need to fire up the TV tonight or tomorrow night. That's because all 12 members of the conference are scheduled to slug it out on Tuesday and Wednesday. However, if you ARE a fan of MACtion, these two evenings promise nothing less than a feast for the senses. And at the very least, we get to see which teams tart up their uniforms with new color schemes, etc. After last week's home loss to the RedHawks, the Ohio Bobcats now sit one game back of current top-seed Miami in the MAC East. To stay there, they'll need to banish the Buffaloes tonight since the RedHawks will most certainly bag a 'W' over woeful Akron tomorrow night. Meanwhile, at 3-6 this season, the Bulls will need to win out to earn their bowl stripes. To do that they would have to win here tonight, and next week at Miami, and then cap it off with a layup against Eastern Michigan. It's good that Buffalo fans can still entertain such a notion, but we think it ends right here at the hands of the Bobcats. For openers, Ohio has got this 'playing on Tuesday' thing down to a science. In their last ten appearances in day-before-Hump-Day games, the Cats are an impressive 9-1 SU and 8-2 ATS on Tuesdays, including **5-0 SUATS** away. We can't say that for the Bulls, who have stumbled when playing on the day after Monday, fleecing wallets with a **1-5 ATS** failure. Buffy can claim an eye-popping **7-1 ATS** record as a home dog in this series but the Bulls are **0-4 ATS** off a loss as a dog when taking on a foe coming off a loss as a favorite. In a must-win situation for Ohio, we'll back the Bobcats here.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS over Ball State by 14

The Huskies just couldn't get off the field in last week's disappointing 37-31 loss to Central Michigan. Though they tallied a tidy 506 yards on offense, the NIU defense was constantly shredded, giving up a whopping 331 rush yards at an average of 7.0 yards per carry. The 4-5 / 3-2 Huskies still have work to do if they wish to become a bowler for the second time in the last four years but the going should be a bit easier against a Ball State contingent that ranks 11th out of 12 MAC teams in scoring with 16.7 points per game. In fact, the Cardinals' popgun attack ranks No. 128 in overall offense at 277 YPG. Northern Illinois holds the edge of late in series games against the Redbirds, going 18-6 SU and 16-8 ATS. The sled dogs have also bounced back after a horrid 1-4 start, winning 3 straight games before last week's defeat versus the Chippewas. NIU senior QB Rocky Lombardi is second in the conference in passing yards with 186.8 yards per game; even better, 10 of his 11 touchdowns have come in the last five games. The Cardinals do rank sixth in the conference in rushing yards with 144.2

YPG but we can't see them hanging with a red-faced, hungry bunch of Huskies playing their best ball of the season. Lay the points.

WESTERN MICHIGAN over Central Michigan by 3

Although neither of these squads have a prayer of running down Toledo for the MAC West title, Western Michigan must win here and run the table in its final two contests to qualify for a bowl appearance. Not so for the Chippewas, who hold on to 2nd place in the West and can bag a bowl invite with Win No. 6 against the Broncos tonight. We're interested in seeing if Central Michigan's ground attack can continue ripping off massive chunks of yardage like they did versus NIU last week. Meanwhile, the Broncos were in the midst of a standing-8 count following 3 straight defeats before they returned to the winner's circle by punishing Eastern Michigan, 45-21. CMU will be looking for some payback here after losing at home last year to WMU as 10-point chalk, 12-10. The Chips have gone 4-1 ATS in this series when playing away with revenge and they're **4-0 ATS** when both teams arrive off point spread wins. However, the problem with CMU tonight is its dismal **1-15 SU and 2-14 ATS** mark as a dog of 2-plus points coming off a SU underdog win. UGHH. Add Western's recent 4-1 ATS run in this series and we're looking to hoist the 'halt' sign in this battle between compass point foes.

Wednesday, November 8

TOLEDO over Eastern Michigan by 22

It's time you got a proper introduction to the Toledo football team. After losing their season opener, 30-28, at Illinois the Rockets have reeled off eight straight wins and own a 2-game lead in the MAC West. Now in his 8th season with UT, head coach Jason Candle has had only one non-winning season during his tenure, a 6-6 finish in 2019. And adding in the Rockets' current 8-1 run, Candle's record in Toledo is a sterling 62-33. The midnight-blue-and-gold is also the loop's only undefeated team in conference play in 2023 (5-0) and the **MIDWEEK ALERT** tells us the Rockets are one of only six CFB teams to win the stats in every game they've played this season. Now that's what we call an endorsement. Moving to the 'we wouldn't play these guys with your money' side of things, the invading Eagles are the ONLY FBS squad to go winless 'in the stats' (0-9) this season. Eastern Michigan
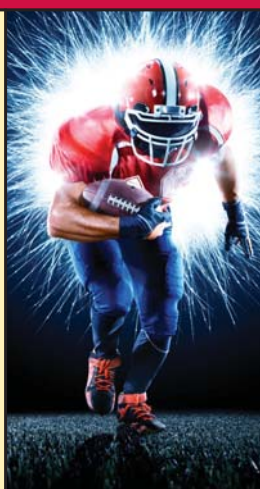
has not been competitive in this series either, going 3-18 SU and 7-14 ATS in the last 21 meetings, including **1-9 SU and 2-8 ATS** on the road. A win here will virtually seal the deal for Toledo in this year's MAC West race and we're not about to step in front of them tonight.

Bowling Green over KENT STATE by 5

While Akron is an annual candidate to languish in the MAC cellar at season's end, we genuinely think that the 1-8 / 0-5 Flashes of Kent Sate are the worst unit in the conference this campaign. However, thanks to the schedule makers, KSU could end up playing spoiler as they close out the year against two foes in their final three games that must beat the Flashes in order to gain bowl eligibility, including the Falcons tonight. Bowling Green enters riding a 3-game win streak, and the 5-4 / 3-2 Falcons are looking to earn their bowl stripes here tonight for the second-straight season. They'll also be looking to shake a 5-game series losing skid against the Flashes. The BeeGees certainly hold their own when it comes to being favored away from Doyt Perry Stadium, going 21-3 SU and 17-7 ATS in the last 24 games as road chalk. Still, the Falcons are scrapping with two other teams in the East that started play this week with identical 3-2 marks in conference play. We also won't overlook Kent's 7-3 ATS mark in their last ten games as a home dog, which makes them downright dangerous. Be careful here.

MIAMI OHIO over Akron by 20

So how easy will this be for Miami Ohio? Probably easier than undefeated Air Force hammering a 1-win Army team to… What's that? Air Force LOST? Okay, so knocking off Akron tonight should be easier for the RedHawks than last week's upset of Ohio, where on the road with a back-up quarterback as a touchdown underdog, Miami beat Ohio 31-16 to take control of the MAC East. Chuck Martin's troops continue to soldier on despite losing starting QB Brett Gabbert, plus his starting TE and a stud DE, but it really shouldn't matter against an Akron program that is one of the nation's worst. The Zips managed only 4 wins from 2019 to 2022, and they've logged just two victories over Morgan State and Kent State in 2023. Don't blame the stop-unit though, as the Zips own a respectable 334 YPG defense; it's a 267 YPG (No. 129) offense that holds them back. Miami head coach Martin's experience will likely lead them to the promised land tonight as he's 28-12 SU and 25-14-1 ATS against MAC foes with a losing record, including **14-2 SU and 12-4 ATS** when favored by more than 7 points. Akron's lousy **1-8 ATS** record when both teams are coming off spread wins puts the final nail in the Zips' coffin. You know what to do.

Thursday, November 9

LOUISVILLE over Virginia by 14

Just win, baby. That's Louisville head coach Jeff Brohm's November mantra as his No. 11 Cardinals (AP Top 25) are just 3 wins away from a date with Florida State for the ACC Championship. And while we're at it, we should congratulate Brohm on his insightful coaching switch from Purdue to Louisville: the Boilermakers – an 8-6 team in Brohm's

final season – have limped to just 2 wins this season and will not go bowling while Louisville is 8-1 and poised to bag a New Year's bowl game. The Cards success can be attributed to that old adage: run the ball and stop the run and you will win. Louie cranks out 190 YPG on the ground at 5.0 yards per carry on offense and allows a miserly 92 rush yards per contest on defense. Brohm's boys also have a big edge in the turnover department tonight, standing +5 compared to Virginia's -6. However, despite all the glowing accolades for the home team, the fact is Virginia is the sort of "ugly dog" that forces plenty of zero-and-one-loss teams to play down to their level. While the 2-7 Cavs are indeed ugly on the scoreboard, they've been solid gold at the pay window of late, going **7-1 ATS** in their last eight conference games, as well as **5-1 ATS** as double-digit ACC dogs. The Wahoos also sport a 4-1 ATS record on Weekdays, and a no-nonsense 15-4 ATS mark versus .750 or greater conference opponents. Those numbers mesh perfectly with Louisville's **0-4 ATS** series mark when coming off consecutive wins, and the Cards' **0-4 ATS** failure over the last 2 years when facing a .300 or less conference foe. The end result? Louie gets its 9th win of the season but Virginia cashes another golden ticket.

LOUISIANA over Southern Miss by 8

What's in a name? A few seasons ago when the Ragin' Cajuns were known as Louisiana-Lafayette, four years under head coach Billy Napier produced an average of just over 10 wins per season. When Napier left for Florida, the university decided to re-brand themselves as 'Louisiana'. Well, since that ceremony took place current head coach Michael Desormeaux stands 11-11, topping it off with last week's dreadful 37-17 loss to Arkansas State, a team the Cajuns had beaten in 5 straight previous meetings. The good news is 5-4 Louisiana needs just one more win to earn its bowl stripes. The bad news is they probably won't cover the spread while doing so. Not when Southern Miss swoops into town on a **6-0 ATS** run in this series, and a **7-1 ATS** record coming off a win against foes off a loss. We know it's a lot asking you to back an Eagles team that has sandwiched two SU wins around a 7-game losing streak but their most recent two games have produced winning ATS tickets and In The Stats wins as well. With the Cajuns now **1-4 ATS** at home off back-to-back road games and under considerable pressure to become bowl eligible for a sixth straight season, we're forced to fade the Ragin's here.

Friday, November 10

SMU over North Texas by 21

SMU isn't looking at their move to the ACC next year with bad blood because they didn't get included in the SEC and Big Ten's expansion. On the contrary, the Mustangs can say with confidence that they have a better football program right now than half of the ACC's current members. The 7-2 / 5-0 Ponies are currently locked in a three-way tie atop the AAC with Tulane and UTSA and need a win over North Texas to keep pace. No problem, considering the Green defense can be best described in one word: lean. Or perhaps non-existent would be a better choice given its dead-last ranking of 133 FBS teams (465 YPG and 37 PPG, although we have to admit we've seen worse –

2023 COLLEGE FOOTBALL TOP 25 PLAYOFF RANKINGS

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

1 OHIO STATE

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

just not this season). Compare that to SMU's 282 YPG and 16 PPG defensive performance this season. In addition to a Top 10 ranked team in Scoring Offense and Scoring Defense, the Ponies are 8-1 'In The Stats', winning by an average +196 net YPG. We hate to kick a bad team while they're down, but SMU has absolutely dominated this series, going **7-1 SUATS** in the last eight meetings and **7-0 SU and 4-0 SUATS** off a win. As the Fabulous Thunderbirds used to say, that's powerful stuff, and we're not about to challenge that with a North Texas team lost in the deep end of a 0-3 SU skid. Lay it if you play it.

Wyoming over UNLV by 3
We're still having trouble adjusting to the fact that perennial Mountain West doormat UNLV has become a legit contender under 2nd-year head coach Barry Odom. Nearly equaling their win total for the previous three seasons with last year's 5-7 finish, Odom's Rebels are 7-2 / 4-1 in 2023 and show no signs of slowing down. Until tonight, that is. Fresh off a bowl-clinching win over Colorado State last week, the Cowboys ride into Sin City with a recent **5-1 SUATS** series record, including **3-0 SUATS** as a dog of fewer than 4 points. Wyoming head coach Craig Bohl chips in with a 12-5 ATS record as a dog when coming off a SUATS win. The Rebels, however, are finding out that appearing in the role of favorite comes at a price, as they're just 2-7 ATS as chalk if they were favored in their last game. And while last week's 56-14 annihilation of New Mexico looks good on paper, Vegas is a lousy 2-6 SU and **1-7 ATS** after scoring 35+ points in their previous contest. With Wyoming now **6-1 ATS** when both teams are coming off a win, there are just too many favorable numbers to keep us off the Pokes tonight. Ride 'em, Cowboys!

Saturday, November 11

FLORIDA ATLANTIC over East Carolina by 14
The vessel has sailed out to sea, the gangplank has been extended over the waves, and the waiting begins to see if ECU head coach Mike Houston can survive this year's 1-8 disaster. The Pirates do close out with three 'winnable' games against FAU, Navy and Tulsa, but will a late season sweep to finish 4-8 be enough to save Houston's job? First of all, we can forget about that 'sweep' nonsense considering the only win for East Carolina this season came in a 44-0 whitewash of lightweight Gardner-Webb. But when the Pirates faced teams in their same weight class, they've come up empty while scoring a mere 14.4 PPG. Meanwhile, the 4-5 Owls have legitimate bowl thoughts on their mind, needing a win this afternoon and one more against either Tulane or Rice. With the spirit of Howard Schnellenberger still lingering at FAU Stadium – and the Owls **4-1 ATS** in the first of back-to-back home games – we'll back the team that is trying against the one that is crying.

Alabama over KENTUCKY by 6
Since suffering a home loss to Texas in Game 2, the Tide has quietly taken care of business, beating some of the best teams the SEC has to offer, and If they win out they'll reach the conference title game. QB Jalen Milroe was there when the Tide needed him, scoring a school record 4 rushing TDs in Saturday's 42-28 victory over LSU, a win that Nick Saban called "probably as close to a complete game as we played all year." The Sabanator and his 8-1 / 6-1 Crimson crew should pin an 'L' on Kentucky in this high-noon contest but cashing the ATS ticket is another matter entirely. For openers, the Wildcats are playing their final home game of 2023 and they've gone **4-0 ATS** in this role of late. They're also **5-0 ATS** as conference home dogs of more than 4 points and a lofty 9-2 ATS, including **6-0 ATS** the last six, in games when coming off a win as a favorite. UK head coach Bob Stoops is winless in three tries versus Saban and after getting destroyed 63-3 in their last meeting, he would love nothing more than to knock the Tide down a peg or two today. He's got a shot here considering he's 20-7-1 ATS off a win when the Wildcats allow fewer than 25 PPG and are facing a greater than .600 foe. That sounds better than Nick's wobbly 2-7 ATS slide as conference road chalk of 3 or more points versus a greater-than .500 foe. Kentucky also clinched bowl eligibility last week, so we don't expect any sort of letdown here. Closer than you think!

3★ BEST BET

Miami Florida over FLORIDA STATE by 1

Hey, no risk it no biscuit, right? Perched on the pedestal that reads No. 4 in this week's College Football Playoff rankings, undefeated Florida State is starting to remind fans of the team's dominant runs of old under head coach Bobby Bowden. But while the Seminoles have reeled off 5 straight conference wins since conquering Clemson, the fact is four of those five wins came against teams that currently own a losing record. It also turns out FSU is just 4-12 ATS as chalk in this series when facing a team that has double conference revenge, and Miami will be breathing fire following last year's 45-3 mauling by the Noles at Hard Rock Stadium. Despite an up-and-down season that has many pundits shoveling dirt on the Canes, they're still 6-3 and ready to ruin the rival Seminoles' dreams of an unbeaten campaign and a national championship. As for grabbing the cash, Miami is 10-3 ATS as a dog in this series, including **7-1 ATS** away. The Hurricanes are also **5-1 ATS** as a dog after scoring 6 or fewer points in their last game when facing a foe off a win, including **3-0 SUATS** versus greater than .800 opponents. All this may be falling on deaf ears after Miami's 20-6 loss to NC State last week but when the Canes are held to 10 or fewer points they bounce back with aplomb, going 4-2 SU and **6-0 ATS** as a dog of fewer than 16 points. The **MIDWEEK ALERT** chips in too, noting that the Hurricanes actually outgained NC State in the defeat while holding the Pack to 216 total yards of offense. More bad luck for FSU: the series host is on a 2-7 ATS slide. Finally, we shrink wrap this puppy with **THE CLINCHER: Florida State is 0-10 ATS when coming off a win as a favorite when facing a foe coming off a loss as a favorite.** Go ahead and say it: And down go the Seminoles!

SOUTH CAROLINA over Vanderbilt by 10
Thank God for Vandy. It seems like whenever an SEC team is losing and unable to find its way, the Commodores arrive to provide an instant pick-me-up. Chances are the PA system in Williams-Brice Stadium will be playing "The Impossible Dream" for this noon start in Columbia as the down-but-not-out Gamecocks can become bowl eligible by closing out the season with wins over Vandy, Kentucky, and Clemson. We all know that's not going to happen. South Carolina is going nowhere but home for the holidays, which makes it difficult laying two touchdowns with a squad that scores almost 5 PPG less than the defense yields, and allows 66 YPG more than it gains. We won't, not with the Gamecocks **2-8 ATS** when both teams are coming off a home game. We must come clean and inform you that Vanderbilt is a woeful 1-7 ATS in this series and 1-6 ATS off a SU loss, but sometimes ugly dogs have a way of bringing teams down to their level. In this case, though, Carolina doesn't have that far to come down. Take it if you play it.

NORTH CAROLINA over Duke by 15
After essentially torpedoing their season with back-to-back losses to Virginia and Georgia Tech, we can understand why Mack Brown and North Carolina wanted to take out their anger and frustration against an overmatched foe. The Tar Heels certainly got what they wanted last week, blasting FCS opponent Campbell by 59-7. Let's

hope they enjoyed it as they now have to turn their attention to a major ACC rival in Duke. It's not quite as intense as the basketball version but the Blue Devils have dropped 4 straight on the gridiron to UNC and they'll be dead set on ending that streak tonight in Chapel Hill. Unfortunately, the Devils have hit a wall following a 4-0 SU and 3-0 ATS start to the season. It can be attributed to QB woes as starting signal caller Riley Leonard missed his second game of the season in a Week Eight loss at Louisville and won't suit up here. In addition, backup QB Henry Belin V is dealing with an upper-body injury, forcing head coach Mike Elko to start true freshman Grayson Loftis in his first career start against Wake Forest last week. While Loftis did guide Duke to a 24-21 decision against Wake Forest to clinch a bowl berth, the Demon Deacons actually dominated in the stats 400-267. Gulp. The 7-2 / 3-2 Tar Heels are in a five-way log jam for fourth place in the ACC and the feeling here is they're about to separate themselves from the pack. An **11-1 ATS** record when coming off non-conference home games sets the table, along with an **8-2 ATS** mark when playing a foe with quadruple revenge. Suddenly we're in no hurry to back the Pitch Forks tonight.

Virginia Tech over BOSTON COLLEGE by 3

Has a sleeping giant been awakened in the ACC? After a 1-3 season start, Boston College has ripped off 5 consecutive wins to become bowl eligible. However, the problem is those victories came against teams that are currently 15-30 SU and the Eagles' average winning margin in those contests is a piddling 7 PPG. Okay, no sleeping giant here. The public agrees, causing the opening line to swing from BC -2.5 to VT -1.5 at press time. After a 1-3 SUATS start to the season, the 4-5 Hokies are back on track as they, too, look to become bowl eligible in the final three weeks of the season. We realize there was a power shortage last week in the Hokies' 34-3 loss at Louisville where the Techsters managed a mere 100 yards of offense, but we're banking on a bounce back today, especially with BC's rush defense giving up just under 5 yards per carry. Top it all off with the Eagles' anemic 2-9 ATS record as home chalk, including **0-5 ATS** the last five, and we're all set to bring down the Beantown boys… no matter what Your Cousin From Boston has to say!

WAKE FOREST over NC State by 6

Wake must have slept through the alarm this entire season, stumbling to a 4-5 record while winning only 1 ACC contest. In the latest bowl talk, the Demon Deacons must win this afternoon, or they'll have to beat Notre Dame next week for Win No. 5 – which ain't happening. No such pressure on the 6-3 Pack who have already qualified and will be looking to upgrade their bowl status with a few more wins down the stretch. But while NC State clinched bowl eligibility against Miami last week, they did so in the phoniest of fashions when they apple-carted the Hurricanes, 20-6, as a 6.5-point home dog – despite being outgained for the second time in a row in as many wins the past two games. The Deacs will be playing in their Last Home Game of the campaign, a role in which they've won and covered each of the past three seasons. They also take the field off a previous home loss to Florida State with a **6-0 SUATS** chip in their pocket in home games when coming off a previous home loss. All of this makes the Wolfpack highly vulnerable today and since we don't think they're worthy of road chalk status, we're more than ready to pounce with Wake Forest.

CLEMSON over Georgia Tech by 8

It's safe to say that Dabo Swinney does not need a P.R. agent. After last week's huge win over Notre Dame, the Clemson head coach exclaimed in an interview, "I know we're down and everybody's throwing dirt on us. But if Clemson is a stock, your better buy all the friggin' stock you can buy on us right now." Hmm… sounds to us as if Dabo bought plenty at +3 on the Tigers against the Irish last week. We'll be selling this week, though, as our **AWESOME ANGLE** on page 2 commands. Hard to believe that these two come in with identical 5-4 records and will be playing to clinch a bowl bid today. Thanks to an inexplicable home loss to Bowling Green over a month ago, the Rambling Wreck must beat one of the three teams remaining on their schedule to go bowling: Clemson, Syracuse, or Georgia. We'll go out on a limb here and say Tech is not going to beat the Bulldogs, plus the Tigers have pretty much used the Yellow Jackets for batting

practice since the start of the 2015 season. Regardless, Georgia Tech is probably the LAST team Clemson wants to see right now while it's sandwiched between Notre Dame and North Carolina. The numbers don't lie, and they tell us the Wreck is **8-1 ATS** the last nine games as a dog, and 8-2 ATS in games when both teams come off SUATS wins. Clemson, who may still be celebrating last Saturday's win, are just **1-5 ATS** the last six games when coming off a win. Can't call for the outright upset but we think Tech bags the ATS win in a close one.

JAMES MADISON over Connecticut by 31

With every passing week, the NCAA rules that prohibit James Madison from taking part in this year's Sun Belt Championship game – or accepting an invitation to a bowl game – looks like it belongs in the era of leather helmets and no face masks. Apparently it's okay to wreck decades of team rivalries and tradition so a few programs can go conference-jumping, but they don't want little Jimmy Madison showing up their FBS opponents in just their second year out of the FCS. Too late, guys: the undefeated Dukes (9-0) show up at No. 21 in this week's AP Top 25. Tuesday morning, the school sent the NCAA a letter asking again for the governing body to allow the school to be fully eligible for the postseason. In the letter, James Madison explicitly says the Dukes would have a chance to compete in a New Year's Six bowl if it finished the season undefeated and was eligible for a bowl game. The NCAA remains unmoved, but they could be in a tough spot if they can't field eighty-two 6-win teams for this year's 41 bowl games. Should that occur, however, JMU would be tagged as a 'fill-in' team and matched against one of the lower echelon bowl squads – an outright insult for a program that's gone a glittery 17-3 SU and 12-6 ATS since joining the FBS, including **10-2 ATS** when coming off back-to-back wins. On the opposing sidelines, Huskies' head coach Mora has struggled against undefeated foes, going just 6-11 ATS overall, and his team owns a discouraging **1-8 ITS** (In The Stats) record this season, losing the stats by an average -123 net yards per game. We'll lay the points with the Dukes here, and hope the NCAA comes to its senses sooner rather than later.

UCF over Oklahoma State by 6

Wow, the landing has been a rough one for UCF in its first year as a member of the Big 12 conference. The Knights went 18-9 with two bowl bids during their last two seasons in the AAC under head coach Gus Malzahn. This year Central Florida stands 4-5 and must beat two of its final three foes down the stretch to qualify for a bowl appearance. Meanwhile, the Cowboys closed out Bedlam in a big way when they pulled the rug out on state rival Oklahoma last week. It was a classic rush-the-field and take down the goal posts celebration thereafter, which almost always sets the table for the next

game as teams enjoying such a celebration oftentimes disappear the following week. Right on cue, the Well-Oiled Machine informs us that Oklahoma State is just **1-5 SU and 0-6 ATS** away after tackling the Sooners. Considering the Knights are 37-6 SU in their last 43 home games, including **10-2 ATS** versus foes coming off a win, we smell another upset in the making – only this time it's on the other side of the field. We're hopping on the bus with Gus today in Orlando.

GEORGIA over Ole Miss by 16

When it comes to high-profile SEC games, we always try to solicit the opinion of our SEC Scout, Jaybird the Bulldog. Sometimes he's hard to track down but we caught up with him today via Facetime at – where else – El Cortez Hotel and Casino. Clad in his black 'Brew-Ha-Ha' t-shirt, he did not mince words in his evaluation of Georgia going into the final three games of the season. "Let me tell you something," said Jaybird. "This team is not going to lose to Ole Miss – or Tennessee or Georgia Tech. I don't care if the College Football Playoff crew has Georgia ranked behind Ohio State in the current ratings. There are only three teams that can give the Dawgs a game right now – Alabama, Oregon, and Washington." Before questioning that appraisal, remember that the back-to-back national champion Bulldogs have won 26 straight games, and they have not lost at home in over five seasons. Ole Miss head coach Lane Kiffin knows what his Rebels are up against here and decided to use his team's double-digit underdog status as motivation. "It's kind of like playing with house money," Kiffin said. "What do we have to lose? Let's just go take a shot." We think they'll need a little more than that to get out of Athens with an ATS win considering Georgia is **8-0 ATS** between the hedges in Game 10 and 9-3 ATS as conference chalk of 13 or fewer points. The Lane Train, meanwhile, is **0-3 SUATS** when coming off a win and 1-4 ATS away when tackling an undefeated opponent. The key stat from the Well-Oiled Machine is that 9-0 home teams in Game Ten of the season are 39-6 SU and **33-11-1 ATS** since 1988 when hosting a foe coming off a win. That blows the stat that defending national champions are just 17-27 ATS in Last Home Games out of the water. It's not often that we lay the big wood, but exceptions are sometimes made. This is one of them.

Minnesota over PURDUE by 6

If the Big Ten decided to host a black-tie party for its football programs, these two misfits would show up wearing T-shirts and flip-flops. When it comes to rivalry trophies in the conference, a total of 16 per year are awarded to the victors, but this series has no such reward – even though Minnesota is involved in FIVE trophy games throughout the rest of the season. Surely these two can find something to cast in bronze and quibble about! The Gophers could have qualified for a bowl game last week, but they lost at home to an inconsistent Illinois squad. Another opportunity to go bowling is up for grabs again today

for Goldy and with Ohio State on deck, Minnesota had better get busy against a Purdue squad that's quickly fading into the background now that Boilermakers basketball is underway. A quick visit with the Well-Oiled Machine tells us all we really need to know. The Gophers are **12-1 ATS** coming off an ATS loss versus a foe coming off an ATS win and **6-1 ATS** away off consecutive home games. The 'Makers have gone a miserable **1-12 ATS** as a conference home pick or favorite of fewer than 18 points, plus they're **1-4 ATS** in the last five series meetings. Folks, the 2-7 / 1-5 Boilers sport the worst record of any team in the Big Ten and if you've got a strong feeling that things are about to change, then you're on your own this afternoon.

Memphis over CHARLOTTE by 15

Some teams handle success well, others can't be relied on to maintain momentum. Our evidence for this game says both teams are guilty. We can't be surprised by Charlotte, they're 3-6 and after each win so far this season, they have lost. Even worse, they post a shameful **1-6 ATS** when coming off a SUATS win. What did they do last week? Win as a 4-point dog in Tulsa. Memphis, you Tigers should know better. The Tigers' offense is on fire, amassing 45, 45 and 59 points in their last three games, all wins. Memphis QB Seth Henigan has seven TD passes against no interceptions while RB Blake Watson scored four times during this run. That streak has Memphis just one back of a three-way tie for first in the AAC and the only reason we're not enthusiastically parading past the Gibson Guitar Factory singing the Tigers fight song while chowing on Gus's Fried Chicken is a depressing 1-6-1 ATS record Head Coach Ryan Silverfield has against teams coming off a win. If we were selling "Lay It If You Play It" T-shirts, we'd be handing these out at the 49ers tailgate parties. Which, come to think of it, probably wouldn't go over well there.

4★ BEST BET

PENN STATE over Michigan by 6

Michigan finally begins their regular season with a road game in Happy Valley but is anyone talking about Michigan football or is the focus on the Wolverines' alleged methods for gaining an advantage. (Side note: you do realize U of M isn't the only one doing this, right? They were just both bold and sloppy enough to get noticed) This game is so huge, we're invoking "triple not-so-secret my friends' probation". The recent storm in Ann Arbor will have one of two effects, unite Michigan into an unbeatable monster, or rattle them into defeat because they are on trial in the court of both the Big 10 and public opinion. The prosecution begins with The Well-Oiled Machine, pointing out 9-0 teams hitting the road for Game 10 are 30-47-1 ATS since 1982 including 6-20-1 ATS when facing teams with competent defenses, giving up 20.5 ppg or fewer. Sidebar: The Nittany Lions are **4-0 ATS** with double conference revenge. James Franklin is 15-5-1 ATS at home with conference vengeance on the evidence table, including **6-2 SU** and **6-1-1 ATS** with a win percentage of .800. We spy with our little eyes Michigan in this week's **THE SMART BOX** as a big-time fade, but we realize to win our case, we need a Perry Mason-like clincher. Oh, wait…we have **THE CLINCHER: Penn State is 8-3 SU against undefeated opponents under James Franklin when the Lions allow fewer than 12 PPG including 7-0 by an average win of 22.4 PPG.** Who even knows if Jim Harbaugh will be on the sidelines for any more Michigan games this season, or ever again? If Michigan pulls this W off, and somehow blows out Penn State, then they are a truly frightening team. Add up all the evidence for this weekend, though and the verdict is Guilty, Guilty, Guilty. That's a "Doonesbury" reference and we're pretty confident that's never been done in the Playbook before. You're welcome.

SOUTH FLORIDA over Temple by 4

Remarkably USF could roll out of Tampa Stadium with a shot at a bowl game. They managed 50 points versus Memphis last week behind a career high five touchdown passes by Byrum Brown, who also threw for 357 and rushed for 100 and STILL lost by 9 points. Temple picked up a third win by knocking off Navy and holding the Mids to 18 points, which is stout for a Temple D that gives up nearly 36 points and 427 YPG. Then again, the Owls D looks like the '85 Bears compared to South Florida's turnstile defense at 446 YPG. Temple's offense may not be good enough to take advantage though, averaging 20.6 a game with a run attack putting up less than 100 YPG. USF is also a dismal **1-9 SUATS**

into this game when bowl teams are coming off a spread win. The wise guys were right to install the Bulls as the favorite but eight isn't enough here. It's too much; even Vincent Van Patten would fold his cards.

Texas State over COASTAL CAROLINA by 3

Two teams statistically close, two teams at 6-3, two teams with post-season plans in place. The Chanticleers are hoping Grayson McCall can clear concussion protocol and resume QB duties, but give it up for Ethan Vasko, who threw the game winning TD to one of the best WRs in the country you haven't heard of, Sam Pinckney, who has a catch in 54 straight games including 20 while at Georgia State. We love the Chants, but we despise their 3-11 ATS record as a home favorite since joining the Fun Belt in 2017. The Bobcats cooled off Georgia Southern's hot QB Davis Brin in a dominating 45-24-win last week behind three TJ Finley TD tosses. We had to grease up the Well-Oiled Machine again, which points out TSU is **5-1 ATS** on the road when coming off back-to-back home games. Check on McCall's status before you plunge, but tread lightly. You may have more fun just watching this game than watching it with money on the line.

5★ BEST BET

Appalachian State over GEORGIA STATE by 10

We are bringing the lumber to this contest, quickly pointing out a major GSU flaw, being **0-9 SU** and 2-7 ATS. This is the first time in series history the Panthers are the betting favorite, which immediately brings out the DIA DIA imprimatur on the App State side…Dominating Dog in Action Doing it Again should be on the flags the cheerleaders race out of the Mountaineers tunnel as part of the pre-game festivities. App State has taken a bit of a slip, missing a bowl game last year and still not eligible this season, although a dub in Atlanta will take care of that. Taking North Carolina off the schedule will help too. Anytime Our Guys in the Desert make ASU the underdog, the Boones Farmers deliver, going **10-1-1 ATS** in their Sun Belt days and **9-1-1 ATS** overall when on the receiving end of points in their last 11 games. Georgia State was rocked last week by conference leader James Madison, 42-14, and that was fresh off being blown out by Georgia Southern the week before when State gave up 44 points. The Mountaineers have won two straight games, combining for 80 points in wins over Southern Miss and Marshall and ASU QB Joey Aguilar has thrown at least two TD passes in every game this season but for the loss at Wyoming. We finish the foundation to our Five Star home with a powerful, life-changing combination of **THE MIDWEEK ALERT**, which points out ASU is the better offensive AND defensive team. That is followed by a simple, tasty **THE CLINCHER: Since joining FBS in 2013 the Panthers are 0-4 ATS in Last Home Games versus foes coming off a win.** To paraphrase a line from Snoop Dogg, "when you diss App State, you diss yourself."

MARSHALL over Georgia Southern by 6

What's this, another home dog in the Sun Belt? Georgia Southern's chief advantage is a 6-3 record instead of the Herd being 4-5, thanks to a vastly better offense led by the aforementioned Davis Brin, who also has a red-hot RB in Jalen White. White has run for 439 yards and five TD in a three-game stretch. Marshall is the lowest scoring team in the conference, but they have a traditionally rugged defense. At 4-5 Marshall must get hot to make a seventh straight bowl game and being 18-12-2 ATS as a Hunt(ington) Dog points us in the right direction, as does Georgia Southern being **1-5 ATS** away before the last home games, and **1-9 ATS** when both teams are coming off road games. If loving Marshall is wrong, we don't wanna be right. Wait a minute, of course we want to be right. What's the point otherwise?

Texas Tech over KANSAS by 7

Yes, KU has been our friend more than once this season, and yes, they ended about a 10,000-game losing streak (approximately) to Oklahoma this fall. They're on fire, having followed up the OU win with a mildly controversial victory over Iowa State. What's not to love about the Jayhawks? This: After playing the Cyclones, KU is **0-6 SU and 1-4-1 ATS** plus they're also 1-4 ATS the week before Kansas State and in this series versus TTU, the Jayhawks are 3-7 ATS in the last 10. Kansas hasn't beaten Texas Tech since 2019. The 4-5 Red Raiders have three shots left in their Guns Up to make a bowl game, and the other two are UCF and Texas. Not only should that motivate Tech, but this being a Big 12 revenge game adds more mesquite to the meat, with TTU **10-1 ATS** in the last 11 versus conference revenge. Tech is also **5-1-1 ATS** as conference dogs of 7 points or fewer. TTU QB Behren Morton, probably the first "Behren" to start a football game in NCAA history, has thrown for 978 yards and 10 scores over the last five games after replacing the injured Tyler Shough and Tech has three receivers with 300 plus yards, making keying in on one wideout a difficult and likely fruitless decision. The Red Raiders are another DIA DIA dog, too with strong support from **THE CLINCHER on page 3 in the INCREDIBLE STAT.** We remind KU supporters not to be angry with us; this is business, not personal, and they're taking it very personally. You don't want to get your brains all over your nice Big 12 suit.

WISCONSIN over Northwestern by 14

There was much stink around the firing of Pat Fitzgerald after his long tenure at Northwestern fizzled out among hazing allegations, but incredibly NW is 4-5 / 3-4. Those four wins are more than in the last two Fitzgerald seasons combined and gives the Wildcats a chance to make a bowl game if they can scrape together two more wins. After a likely loss to Wisconsin, Illinois and Purdue are on deck so we're saying there's a chance. The Badgers are a disappointment this year at 5-4 after being stunned at Indiana week, Wiskie's second straight loss and third in the last four games. It's not like the Badgers are an explosive offensive team either, just 24 points in the last two losses and the 2023 Badgers are far from what we're used to in the run game, eking out barely over 100 YPG, a far cry from the days of Ron Dayne, Melvin Gordon, Montee Ball and Jonathan Taylor. Game 10 is usually a happy one in Madtown, the Badgers 11-0 ATS when they play that tenth game at home and throw in **6-0 ATS** when coming off an SU favorite loss. Northwestern doesn't have much success against Wisconsin anyway, in the series The Badgers are **7-0 SU and 6-1 ATS** when the Wildcats are coming off loss, which is often. The difference may be the UW defense, which gives up 19 PPG against a Wildcats offense scoring 20.1. We came to get down, we came to get down, so get out your seat and jump around. After you throw some cheddar on Wisconsin, make sure you're jumping around to change the channel to find a more interesting game.

IOWA over Rutgers by 5

Incredibly, Iowa can be in the Big 10 title game. NBC is going to have to create another channel to hide the Hawkeyes like they hid them in the Game of the Year versus Northwestern last week. Iowa won that 10-7, easily below the O/U total that had swelled to 31 from 29.5. Total yards saw Iowa with a 157-156 advantage. Breathtaking! In six conference games, Iowa has six offensive touchdowns and most of the noise around the team is about the Family Ferentz and not the on-field product. In the short history of this series, the Scarlet Knights have worn the Scarlet Letter, going 0-3 SU by a 71-17 total. Rutgers put up a respectable fight versus Ohio State a week ago and RU is 9-2 ATS when coming off a home game against a team coming off a road game. The story that's being missed around Kirk Ferentz is his 20-10-1 ATS record at Iowa Stadium in conference games when favored by fewer than 7. Iowa is also **7-0 ATS** when coming off a win without covering and a surprising **8-0 ATS** coming off a win as the favorite when playing opponents who are coming off losing as the underdog. We can't tell if Kirk Ferentz should be fired or should be a Coach of The Year candidate for being 7-2 and in the Top 25 with that offense. By the way, did you see the O/U for this game? 29.5 Baby!!!!

LIBERTY over Old Dominion by 17

Liberty may be the most overlooked unbeaten team in the nation. Air Force got plenty of love before they dropped out of the ranks, and James Madison is kicking dirt on the shoes of the NCAA about not allowing the Dukes to be championship eligible. The Flames are 9-0 / 7-0 as they head into a non-conference game against an ODU team nursing faint bowl hopes. The series hasn't been kind to the Monarchs, who are 0-3 SUATS versus Liberty, and there isn't much reason to back ODU with a **1-5 SUATS** as a dog when favored in the prior game. Liberty might be poised for a letdown, but historically 9-0 teams in Game 10 of the season are 61-9-1 SU and 45-24-1 ATS since 1988. Throw in a **7-0 SUATS** when coming off a home win. Butterflies are free to fly…fly away bye bye. We're going to save your life tonight sugar bear and tell you to avoid getting caught in the Monarchs net. Libertie!

BOISE STATE over New Mexico by 34

Football in Boise is darker than their famous blue field, for just the 12th time in this century the Broncos carry a losing record into a conference game. Wonderful news, a get-well prescription is arriving in the form of a Lobos team that are **1-10 ATS** when coming off consecutive SUATS losses, **1-10 ATS** as a dog if a dog last game, and even worse, **1-11 ATS** in games when both teams are coming off conference games. Boise looks like the 2001 Miami Hurricanes compared to that, being 7-2 ATS if a dog last game against a team that also was an underdog last game. In those rare occasions when the Broncs do have a losing conference mark, they are 11-0 SU and 7-2-2 ATS. We have uncovered our ESPN Minus Game of The Week!* *(subject to replay review)

Arizona over COLORADO by 6

If we told you in September, that one team in this matchup that clinched a bowl game, and one hasn't we are pretty sure which way you would have guessed. Arizona nailed down a sixth win last week, one ahead of what was forecast. In Boulder, Coach Prime is putting out more fires than the cast of "Backdraft", but the biggest blaze was the one he set himself. Sanders demoted his 2.7-million-dollar offensive coordinator Sean Lewis and made Pat Shurmur the play caller for the Oregon State game which turned into CU's third straight loss. The "revamped" offense saw QB Shedeur Sanders get sacked four times and gather just 78 yards and 3 points in the first three quarters. Alert members of the Boulder media should be staking out UPS Stores and FedEx Offices to see if Lewis is printing multiple resume copies for his next job (a return to Syracuse?) while Colorado tries to figure out why their offense went from averaging 36 points in four of their first five games, with an average of 500 YPG in four of those games. We can explain it with one word: Schedule. If you're an alert reader, you are no doubt expecting us to whip out a stat burying Colorado once and for all, but you are NOT CORRECT SIR! Arizona is **1-7 ATS** games when coming off consecutive SUATS wins. Plus, Arizona is trapped in the double revenge sandwich, coming off the upset home dog win over UCLA and Utah waiting in the wings. There is another sliver of good news for Colorado, the Buffs own a 5-1 ATS conference home dog record against teams coming off double-digit wins. We're not crazy about either side so spray this one with a healthy shot of Pooph and back the Bison.

Iowa State over BYU by 11

We like BYU, we don't like BYU. This week, we turn our backs on the Cougars and point out this is one shaky 5-4 squad, being outgained by an average of 116 yards per game, a gem you can find in **THE MIDWEEK ALERT**. BYU is also a depressing **0-5 ATS** when coming off consecutive losses as a dog in each game and 2-7 ATS when coming off a double-digit loss. BYU can't run the ball either; they average under 80 yards per game. Squally Canada, Lopini Katoa, and JJ Di Luigi aren't walking through that door. ISU, like the Cougars, is a win away from bowl eligibility and the Clones were riding a three-game win streak until tripping up vs. Kansas last week. Iowa State is **13-2 ATS** when both teams are coming off SUATS losses. Matt Campbell is known for dropping The People's Elbow on your noggin when you're staggered, his record versus teams coming off a loss is 45-15 SU and 39-20-1 ATS. Toss that in with Campbell's teams being **25-6-1 ATS** when his team is giving up less than 24 PPG. According to Power Thesaurus, there are 150 synonyms for "the choice is clear" including clear preference, unambiguous choice, absolute no brainer and our favorite, obvious dish. The easiest decision is shed the points, unambiguously.

UTAH STATE over Nevada by 20

There was a brief glimmer of hope for the Wolf Pack to stitch together a respectable season after starting 0-6 followed by back-to-back wins but incredibly they were beaten at home by one of CFB's traditional worst travelers, Hawaii. The Wolves are speeding towards a second straight 2-10 season, since they will be underdogs the rest of the way. Nevada is a limp 2-7 SUATS in the first of back-to-back road games, and a flaccid **0-5 ATS** vs sub .667 opponents. It has been a down year at Merlin Olsen Field, and the Aggies need to catch fire late to earn a bowl berth. HC Blake Anderson is turning to Cooper Legas as the starting quarterback to finish off the season based on his performance last week in a double OT win over San Diego State and an ankle injury suffered by former starter McCae Hillstead. The Aggies are a reliable source for Christmas shopping money when at home, 30-4 SU, 22-11-1 ATS as a home favorite after scoring 24 or more points in the previous game (32 last week). Send your thank you notes to Blake Anderson for his career 24-4 SU and 20-8 ATS as a conference home favorite marks. Maybe leave him a few cookies under your tree too. We think you can afford the good ones, not the hard store-bought kind.

Washington State over CALIFORNIA by 3

The AP Top 25 released after September 24 showed a 4-0 Washington State at 4-0 ranked 16th. If you check out any poll today, you will find the Cougars in the "also receiving sympathy" column after an alarming five-game losing streak has WSU fighting just to play a bowl game. Luckily, a slump buster may be in Berkeley with 3-6 Cal. The Berkeley Bears are 7-10 ATS in their last 17 home shows and **2-9 SUATS** vs. .400 or greater opponents. Wazzu is 8-2 ATS off a home game versus a foe off a road game, they have the better offense, the better defense, and more motivation. We're kind of surprised Cal is the favorite here in this battle of last place Pac-12 teams and we're not expecting the Golden Bears to stop the third-ranked passing offense in the nation. Neither should you.

WASHINGTON over Utah by 4

After hanging 52 on the cotton candy soft USC defense, the Huskies get a much tougher team in Utah and while the Utes may not be in line for a conference championship berth, they are made of jawbreaker material. The classic bend or break model features the explosive UW offense led by Heisman candidate Michael Penix, Jr. that averages nearly 42 PPG against a Utah team that surrenders less than 16. Washington is working at an exhausting 509 yards per clip and last week Penix had a co-star in RB Dillon Johnson, whose 256 yards and four touchdowns through the USC Marshmallows was spectacular to watch. Utah cannot match that offensive output, but they are **9-1 ATS** in their last 10 games as a road dog of 10 or fewer points. We doubt Utah HC Kyle Whittingham is checking point spreads each week, but he is 40-26-1 ATS when the underdog. It's another incredible matchup in the nation's best conference this year, and the solar powered Well-Oiled Machine points out 9-0 home teams in Game 10 are 39-6 SU and 33-11-1 ATS since 1988 when hosting foes coming off a win. All wonderful right? Oh, you all know us well, don't you? Washington was sluggish until the USC matchup and traditionally they take the Nestea plunge after the Trojans, going **0-12 ATS** after that game and **0-4-1 ATS** as a conference home favorite of 10 or fewer points. Will Washington stay hot or revert to recent form? Which Utah shows up, the tough guys or the wallflowers who were pole-axed by Oregon, who lost to Washington? More Questions than even Taylor Swift or Buffalo Springfield can answer.

UCLA over **Arizona State** by 10

UCLA is a strong outfit at 6-3 but the last days of the Pac-12 are so good, you will find Chip Kelly's Kids in 8th place. They host an Arizona State team that was thumped 55-3 by Utah last week, the worst loss in our database history, which goes back to 1980. ASU managed 83 total yards and seven first downs while giving up 513 yards and 26 first downs. Naturally, we think a small play on the Sun Devils is the move here, mainly because that same database reminds us ASU is 13-4 ATS when coming off a loss of more than 28 points, including 7-0 as a double-digit pup. The Pitchforks are also **10-1 ATS** in games when both teams are coming off an ATS loss, while UCLA is **1-7 ATS** when coming off a SUATS defeat. One more domino to crush, Arizona State is 7-1 in the second of consecutive double-digit canine roles. All this double-digit talk is giving us double vision, which is getting the best of us. We admit to not being very "Hot Blooded" about this matchup, in fact it kind of leaves us "Cold as Ice." We are not suggesting an

"Urgent" run to the betting window, but you have our "Inside Information" to proceed with care on the Sun Devils.

OREGON STATE over Stanford by 20

Stanford reminds us of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video. Just when you think the zombie is dead, a hand sticks up out of the grave. Stanford has understandably been given up for dead this season, but they have two wins as an underdog of 14 and 13.5 points, so you really need to double kill the Walking Dead Cardinal. Stanford is **1-8 ATS** versus .700 or greater foes and are a pathetic **1-6 ATS** as a dog of 17 or more. They are simply not good. Oregon State, now 12th in the CFP rankings, has been the Terminator in this series lately, going 5-1 ATS as the host and are also 4-0 ATS in the first of back-to-back home games. They have a surprising star in TE Jack Velling, who has a school record eight TD catches, and QB DJ Uiagalelei has another pressure valve in RB Damien Martinez, who has four 100+ yards efforts this season and needs just 122 to reach 1K. The only reason we're not rolling logs with the Beavers is they are coming off the glare of playing Colorado and closing the season with Washington and bitter rival Oregon. The Beavers are no doubt the better team but need to watch the ground below them for an unhelping hand.

LOUISIANA TECH over Sam Houston State by 6

We are not sure which team should get less respect this week, a one-win Sam Houston State team that barely beat Kennesaw State last week on a walk off field goal for SHSU's first FBS win, or La. Tech, a single-digit favorite over a team that's 1-8. Worse, they are a single number favorite over a team that beat a Kennesaw team whose only wins are against D2 Tusculum, which we thought was found on a spice rack, and 0-11 Lincoln from California. It's homecoming in Ruston, so maybe Terry Bradshaw, Bert Jones or Karl Malone will show up to celebrate. Having Bradshaw or Jones as a QB might be an upgrade, so they should probably stay home. So should the fans. No truth to the rumor there is a Bearkats Go Fund Me to build a statue for kicker Colby Sessums, whose walk off FG gave SHSU its maiden breaking win. We just can't trust either team here and frankly if you want to appreciate the fine Cajun cooking you can get in Ruston, hit the tailgate and then leave before kickoff. *After further review, we have a reversal… the new ESPN Minus Game of the Week is right here!

OREGON over Usc by 6

Congratulations to USC Coach Lincoln Riley, who beat the Grinch, defensive coordinator Alex Grinch to the Christmas punch by firing the DC after Washington lit them up for 52. It isn't the most surprising reaction given the pillow softness of the Trojans D. They have given up an average of 480 YPG in the last six games in which SC went 3-3 thereby slaying both national title and conference championship hopes. Who is next for the Cardinal and Gold??? The Best Offense in the Nation, led by the other Pac-12 QB Heisman candidate, Bo Nix. Whom would you vote for, Bo or the man with Big Penix Energy? You have no doubt noticed our number is well below what our Guys in the Desert placed on the board. Just the facts ma'am…Riley is 4-1 ATS as a dog of three or more in his career but that's balanced by USC's 3-8 ATS road mark against teams .800 or better. 11-4 SUATS in games after giving up 48 or more is another massive incentive for a team that has the chance to reverse an Andre The Giant sized negative narrative that USC is softer than the filling of a Boston Cream donut. Oregon may be 10-3 ATS as a home favorite of 13 or fewer points but a surprisingly weak 1-4 ATS as double-digit chalk against teams coming off a double-digit loss. Can Caleb Williams wipe away the tears of last week's defeat and find his 2022 Heisman form? Can new leadership on the SC defense make a difference, or will this be another victory march SC can't Fight On against? Our thought is a "300" style effort from a Trojans team that has a chance to be relevant in this year's best CFB conference.

KANSAS STATE over Baylor by 24

Sometimes having your meanest rival on next week's schedule can distract you from the business at hand, but KSU doesn't play that. They are 8-0 ATS the week before they tangle with Kansas. Try the Wildcats being 10-1 ATS as a home favorite of 15 or more and very quickly you arrive at **THE MIDWEEK ALERT** telling you the team from Snyder Family Stadium averages a solid 5.0 yards per rush, which fits just right with Baylor's Swiss cheesy 5.0 yards per rush allowed. Normally the visiting team in this series is the safe play, (7-0 ATS) but Baylor rips off that bandage with an alarming **1-8-1 ATS** in the last 10 games they've lost outright as a dog when meeting a team coming
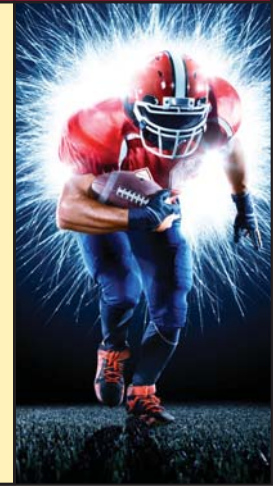
off a loss. Except that K. State loss was nearly a gnarly upset win over Texas in Austin which saw the Wildcats rally from deficits of 17 and 20 before forcing overtime. Masterful, never irrelevant, mathematical… here's some soothing souvenirs…don't sweat the technique when hitting the window and give, give, give those points.

UTSA over Rice by 8

At 4-5 / 2-3, Rice is cooking on the stove with three straight ATS wins and is now in need of victories in two of their last three games to go bowling. While the chances of getting a victory today are not great, the Owls have Charlotte and Florida Atlantic on deck to close out the campaign. A 9-2 ATS mark in the second of double-digit underdog roles catches our fancy, as does the play of Christian McCafftery's little brother Luke, who might also have a future in the NFL. The junior WR is averaging 5 catches for 78 YPG and a total of 9 TD's. As for the 6-3 / 5-0 Roadrunners, they clinched bowl-eligibility last week but don't figure to back off anytime soon as they currently find themselves in a three-way tie atop the AAC with SMU and Tulane. They have, however, struggled in Game Ten of the season since joining the loop in 2013, going 7-3 SU but only 1-8-1 ATS at this time of the season. We know they've been "en fuego" since the return of QB Frank Harris as they ride a 5-game win skein entering this fray. Still, despite being 17-2 SU and 13-5-1 ATS in its last 19 conference capers, UTSA is just 5-4 'In The Stats' this season. Therefore, take the points with the hungrier dog.

ILLINOIS over Indiana by 10

The 3-6 / 1-5 Hoosiers find themselves looking up at the 4-5 / 2-4 Illini but are running out of time. With three contests against teams with losing records, a win here – then against 3-6 Michigan State and 2-7 Purdue to close out the season – would earn them bowl-eligibility which, in truth, would be hard to fathom for a team that has been outgained in 7 of its 9 games this season. A scraggly **1-7 ATS** mark when coming off a win, and 2-8 ATS road dog ledger, just might put those thoughts on hold. As for the Fightin' Illini, they are called that for a reason: with little time to warm-up, back-up QB Josh Paddock relieved the injured Luke Altmyer and went 3 for 3 for 85 yards last week late in the game to deliver the go-ahead 46-yard touchdown pass to Isaiah Williams with 50 seconds left for a 27-26 victory over the stunned Gophers. Illinois is **9-1 ATS** when both teams are coming off SUATS wins but are riding a 6-game ATS home losing skid entering this contest. The bottom line in this battle of the "I's": Bret Bielema's squad should likely be fighting as hard as they can.

Troy over UL MONROE by 22

We don't like laying big spreads like this, especially on the road, but the Trojans bring a boatload of great numbers into this contest. For example, **9-1 ATS** in their last 10 road games, **7-0 ATS** when both teams are off SUATS wins, **8-0 ATS** when coming off consecutive wins, **7-0 ATS** when coming off a SUATS win, and on and on it goes. They also hold a one-game lead over two teams in the Sun Belt West, so there should be no letting up today. Our main concern on the flip side is the Warhawks' 0-5 SU and 1-4 ATS marks in this series. However, head coach Terry Bowden is 9-3 ATS as a dog against foes coming off a SUATS win, so we'll just pull up a chair and watch from the sideline.

MISSOURI over Tennessee by 3

Tied 10-10 at the half, the Tigers took a brief lead over the Dawgs before Georgia pulled away late in the third quarter. If you believe in confidence-building losses then the Tigers check that box this week as the Well-Oiled Machine notes that teams who lose but cover against a defending national champ are 88-76-1 SU and 88-63-4 ATS the following game since 1980, including 54-31-1 SU and 47-28-1 ATS at home. Those are the kind of long-term numbers we like, and we like head coach Eliah Drinkwitz's 24-8 outright mark at home, including **5-0** when coming off a loss of more than 7 points. This battle of 7-2 squads could determine the difference between a New Year's Day invite and a late-December bowl game for these two very good teams. However, the Vols' 3-6 spread record vs .750-or-better conference opponents, along with a **1-5 ATS** mark in SEC games when coming off consecutive SUATS wins, sends us on the way to the home team today.

ARKANSAS over Auburn by 7

The 5-4 Tigers need one more win for bowl eligibility but are just **1-9 ATS** when coming off consecutive wins. Here's an interesting Hugh Freeze stat: he is 53-17 SU and 37-20 ATS in home games, but only 28-28 SU and 29-26-1 ATS away. We think it is safe to say that he won't be eatin' no pig today. Meanwhile, the 3-6 Hogs staved off missing out on a bowl bid with last week's 39-36 upset win at Florida. They close the season with three straight home games, including today's home-cooker against the Tigers, which means there will no pork for Aubbie in Fayetteville. A **7-0 ATS** record for Arkansas when both teams are coming off road games means we'll be asking for extra BBQ sauce. You simply can't count out Sam Pittman and his 19-12-1 ATS overall mark in conference contests… we're not.

LSU over Florida by 13

You can officially add Billy Napier's name to the list of coaches that could be sent packing at the conclusion of this season. After going 6-7 in his debut with the Gators last season, his troops are 5-4 with three games remaining: at LSU, at Missouri, and a home tilt against Florida State. The fact of the matter is four of Napier's five wins this season have come against the likes of McNeese State and three FBS foes who are a combined 8-20 this season. He knows he's under the microscope and needs one more win for bowl-eligibility. We do, however, have to respect his **4-0 ATS** away mark when coming off a SU favorite loss, and his 18-9 ATS dog-log, including **4-0 SUATS** against foes coming off a loss. Meanwhile, the Bengals lost more than just the game at Alabama last week. Not only did the defeat eliminate them from the SEC title game, but they also lost QB Jayden Daniels to a concussion in the game. At his Monday press conference, Brian Kelly said Daniels was in concussion protocol and said he was day-today (but aren't we all?). Check his status before moving a muscle.

OKLAHOMA over West Virginia by 21

The Mountaineers clinched bowl-eligibility last Saturday with a surprisingly easy 37-7 win over BYU, as the stump-jumpers cruised out to a 27-0 halftime lead. Now they take on the Sooners but are just 2-7 ATS when coming off a win and facing a foe coming off a loss. That sound you heard was the Sooners going boom at Stillwater last week in a 27-24 loss to rival Oklahoma State in the final game in the Bedlam rivalry. Similar to last season, they look like they are once again a team in disarray headed into the late stages of the campaign. Next to Notre Dame, they took the second-steepest fall of any AP-ranked team this week, falling 7 spots to No. 17. However, we can't overlook their 24-0 SU and 16-7 ATS record at home in regular season games when coming off a loss, including **17-0 SU and 14-3 ATS** when hosting .700 or fewer opponents. Just do it.

Texas over TCU by 3

The Longhorns went from the outhouse-to-the-penthouse when Kansas State failed to score from three-yards out in overtime. Rather than kick a chip-shot field goal and head to a second overtime, KSU head coach Chris Kleiman opted to either win or lose the game at that moment after sending it to OT by recovering from a 20-point deficit. He missed, and now he's a dunce. If he makes it he's a genius. Texas would've been eliminated not only from the playoff with a second loss but would've struggled to get into the conference championship game without head-to-head tiebreakers against Oklahoma and Kansas State. Instead, the Longhorns remain perhaps the team to beat in the Big 12. And the Horned Frogs will be geeked to do just that. In fact, the Frog Legs are the only "Puttin' on the Stats" **SMART BOX**

dog on this week's card as they have outgained 8 of the 9 foes they've faced this season. We'll play one of our special angles – the one where the previous year's loser of the CFP championship game is a dog – it's 8-2 ATS all-time, with TCU taking both of the losses this season. We'll try TCU one more time in that role today.

TEXAS A&M over **Mississippi State** by 11

Quarterback uncertainty abounds in the run-up to this SEC match-up, as Aggie QB Max Johnson suffered a rib injury against Ole Miss but played through the pain. Now, without even seeing him practice this week, Jimbo Fisher said that he will start against the Dogs. Meanwhile, MSU coach Zach Arnett hinted on Monday that Will Rogers – who has missed three games while the Bulldogs went 1-2 – has a good chance of returning this week. A&M needs one win for bowl-eligibility, but the bad news is their **0-5 ATS** log in games when both teams are coming off a conference game, and **0-5 ATS** record when coming off a loss as a dog. It ties into Jimbo Fisher's fraudulent 4-11 ATS record in his career when coming off a loss and facing a .500 or fewer opponent, including **1-7 ATS** with the Aggies. Meanwhile, the 4-5 / 1-5 Bulldogs still cling to bowl hopes, but just barely. A win today would not only move them one game closer but also out of the SEC West basement. Tough to make a call this early in the week, but our inclination is to go against Jimbo, right?

Cincinnati over HOUSTON by 4

if there is such a thing, the Bearcats would be the nation's best 2-7 team. Somehow, they've out-yarded 6 of the 9 foes they've faced, and are winning the stats by an average +75 net yards per game, yet they enter this contest on a 7-game losing skid. Saturday's 2-point loss to UCF was a perfect illustration. Cincy ran the football well, with a pair of 100-yard rushers, outgained a potentially explosive Knights' offense by 122 yards and still fell short. The problems were turnovers (2 versus none for UCF) and penalties (75 yards against 20 for the Golden Knights). They will be left out of the bowl picture for the first time since 2017. On the other side, the 4-5 Cougs still have visions of bowling, but behind a defense that allows 32 points and 404 yards per game, we see them being camped out at home for the holidays, too. The Bearcats are the play today when we focus on the Cougars' series record: 4-11 SU and 3-11-1 ATS.

TULANE over Tulsa by 28

The 2 Tu's (not tutus) reside at opposite ends of the AAC ladder with 8-1 / 5-0 Tulane in a virtual three-way tie atop the conference, and 3-6 / 1-4 Tulsa just a leg out of the cellar. Tulsa has had a week off to mull over the 69-10 beating they took at the hands of SMU, so if they have any pride at all, they hopefully can at least slow down Green Wave QB Michael Pratt. Unfortunately, we have to take into account their **1-7 ATS** record when coming off a SUATS loss, and a **1-7 ATS** mark in games when both teams are coming off conference clashes. Meanwhile, after the Wave fell to Ole Miss in Game Two of the season, they've reeled off seven straight wins, albeit the last three by one-score margins. Still, they are 10-3 SUATS in games against foes coming off a pair of losses, and we don't see them taking their foot off the pedal anytime soon. Pride will not be enough for the Hurricane to keep it close.

WESTERN KENTUCKY over New Mexico State by 1

The cash cows from Las Cruces bring a moneymaking **6-0 ATS** mark into this game when coming off a SUATS win, while riding a **7-0 ATS** overall SUATS streak this season. We didn't even mention Jerry Kill's 30-13-1 ATS career mark in road games against .800 or fewer foes, including a jaw-dropping **20-3-1 ATS** against opponents who allow 26 or more PPG. Meanwhile, the Hilltoppers need one win for bowl-eligibility, but it won't be easy here today. Not with a 2-7 SUATS record in conference games against foes with a better record, including **0-6 SUATS** versus .700 or greater opponents.

Pittsburgh over SYRACUSE by 8

The Panthers likely welcome the color Orange today, given the recent fall from grace by the 'Cuse. Pat Narduzzi's team has not had much to crow about in this year's 2-7 campaign, but after getting buried by Notre Dame two weeks ago, they were quite competitive last week against the Seminoles in the first half, Trailing just 10-7 at the intermission, Pitt allowed the Noles to slip out of their grasp with two 3rd-quarter touchdowns and in the end, it was the Panthers' third straight defeat. As for today's match-up in the Carrier Dome (we will always call it that, JMA Wireless just does not sound right), an **11-2**

SUATS mark as road or neutral chalk is a good start, although the two losses have come this season. Meanwhile, the Orangemen enter on a major downhill slide after opening the season 4-0, currently riding a **0-5 SUATS** run, while also **0-11 ATS** when coming off a loss. Starting QB Garrett Scrader missed last Friday's contest against Boston College, and Dino Babers said he could be out for the rest of the season. His back-up Carlos Del Rio-Wilson threw 4 interceptions and amassed just 37 yards versus BC. Regardless, a 2-16 SU and 6-11-1 ATS record in this series doesn't bode much confidence at the prospect of a turnaround anytime soon.

NAVY over Uab by 1
The Midshipmen arrive home off a pair of losses, including a puzzling 14-point loss to lowly Temple in which they were outstatted by -189 yards. Still, they are 9-5 outright at home when coming off consecutive losses. They are also **12-2 ATS** when coming off a road loss, so it doesn't take a detective to find the right side of this contest. On the flip side, the Blazers are **0-8 ATS** when coming off a win, and it was an exciting one, a game-winning FG with 3 seconds to play completed the comeback and gave UAB a 45-42 win over FAU. However, as that final score would indicate, the Blazers have a leaky defense allowing a nation-worst 38 PPG, and we can't lay points on the road with credentials like those.

Maryland over NEBRASKA by 2
Both teams need a win for bowl eligibility, yet one of them (the Terps) is on a 0-4 SUATS losing slide and they are the slight favorite. After opening the season 5-0 (to teams with a combined 14-31 record), the Terps have lost those four straight contests to teams with a 25-11 SU mark combined. The latest was a 51-15 thrashing by Penn State at home. Maryland gave up 4 TD passes to Drew Allar and ended up with -49 yards rushing offensively (not a typo, that's -49... yikes!!) Also, the fact that they are **0-7 ATS** when coming off a loss as a dog versus a foe coming off a loss as a favorite points us to the right side of this matchup. Meanwhile, a **4-0 ATS** mark for Nebby in games when both teams limp in off a loss gives us even more ammo. Their top 15 ranked defense allowing 276 YPG gets our vote, as does Matt Rhule's 4-1 SU ATS college career mark in games when coming off an upset loss.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE over Florida Int'l by 10
The 4-5 Panthers are looking to pick up wins in two of their final three games to gain bowl eligibility but are just **1-7 ATS** in games in which both teams come in off losses as a dog. They are also 1-8 'In The Stats' this season, losing the stats by an average -117 net yards per game. Meanwhile, after going bowling in each of the previous two seasons, the 2-7 Blue Man Group will end the 2023 campaign with a bowl pass this year. (Ah yes, the holidays in Murfreesboro!!) However, the Raiders are 8-1 ATS at home off consecutive roadies, and 5-1 ATS in game when both teams check in off spread losses. The trends are there. Just not certain the desire is.

SOUTH ALABAMA over Arkansas State by 6
The heavily touted 5-4 Jags have gone sour, entering off a pair of losses, and are suddenly in need of another win to earn their bowl stripes. They've won and covered each of the last four games in this series, but we see the dog playing the better ball of late. On the flip side, after an 0-2 start, the 5-4 Red Wolves have surged since, and are coming off back-to-back victories over the two Sun Belt Louisiana schools. They'll take the field knowing they are an eye-popping **16-2 ATS** as a conference dog against foes coming off back-to-back losses. Now they find themselves in need of one win for bowl-eligibility, a goal that a few weeks ago seemed completely out of reach. You know exactly what to do.

San Diego State over COLORADO STATE by 1
With neither team going anywhere, and owning identical 3-6 / 1-4 records, we note the Rams are **0-8 ATS** in games in which both teams are coming off SUATS losses. Jay Norvell had high hopes of taking his team to a bowl game in his second season in Fort Collins, but hit a wall after a 3-3 start, thanks in part to a defense that ranks No. 118 in the country. The Aztecs saw their post-season dreams swirl down the drain when the Aggies picked off Jayden Mayden on 4th down in the 2nd OT period to preserve a 32-24 Utah State victory. San Diego State is 10-2 SU and 9-3 ATS in this series, including **4-0 ATS** as a dog, while the Rams are 0-5 SU and 1-4 ATS with .333 or less win percentage versus the Aztecs. We say take it if you play it.

OHIO STATE over Michigan State by 27
Right about now the Spartans remind us of a famous Forrest Gump quote when he said, "My mamma told me that life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get." With that, Team Whitman's, err Michigan State, is a team that is 2-7 overall but 4-5 ITS (In The Stats), including an upset win over Nebraska last week. Meanwhile, the Buckeyes bring good numbers into this contest – like a string of six straight covers in this series and a 5-1-1 spread record as conference home favorites of more than 3 touchdowns. However, at 9-0 this season they, too, are showing signs of getting tight under the collar. The tell was last week's 19-point win over Rutgers in a game where the Buckeyes trailed at the half and were outstatted for the contest, both for the first time this season. Run, Forrest, run.

SAN JOSE STATE over Fresno State by 6
The 4-5 / 3-2 Spartans ride a 3-0 SUATS win skein into this contest and now need a pair of wins in their final three contests to go bowling for the second year in a row. Head coach Brent Brennan is 13-3-1 ATS when coming off a SUATS win, including **4-0-1 ATS** at home and in addition, SJSU is lighting up the scoreboard recently, averaging 43 PPG in those 3 victories. Meanwhile, the **MIDWEEK ALERT** reminds us that the Bulldogs have lost their bite lately, being outgained in each of their last four games. RB Mikey Sherrod is making a name for himself in Northern California, as he rushed for 132 yards, caught 4 passes for another 26, and ran back a kickoff 95 yards on the final play of the first half in the 37-30 win over Boise State. Still, Fresno is 0-4 ATS in Game 10 and just 2-7 ATS when both teams enter off a win as a favorite, so we'll go with Sparty in this bitter NorCal rivalry.

Air Force over HAWAII by 19
Talk about a shocker... the Flyboys' perfect season was shot down by Army last week as the Falcons fumbled four times, threw 2 interceptions, missed a routine field goal, and turned it over on downs twice. All that as an 18.5-point favorite and they lost by 20. Sheesh! Now they travel to the islands, laying the same kind of lumber knowing they are 1-3 ATS as road favorites of more than14 points. Also, they are just 2-5 ATS after losing outright as a favorite to the Cadets. However, they are one game up on Fresno State and UNLV in their quest to clinch the No. 1 seed in the MWC championship game, so they really need this one. Well, they can do it without us, as we're not about to back a double-digit "bubble-burst" road favorite who is **1-7 ATS** as a favorite of 7 or more points in this series. Besides, the Warriors are on a "Maui Wowie high" as they defeated Nevada 27-14 for their first win in the MWC this season. Still, thanks to a powder-puff offense that ranks No. 102 and 104 in the nation in scoring and overall offense, the 3-7 / 1-6 Warriors sport the worst record in the MWC this season. They are **7-1 ATS** when coming off a road game and facing a foe coming off a home game... but the Air Force flies in as a certified "Bubble Burst" fade, and we're forced to oblige.

PRO FOOTBALL

Thursday, November 9

CHICAGO over Carolina by 4
As Charlie Weis of NFL.com said, "if you have a choice of getting a root canal or watching this game, you might want to choose to do the right thing and take care of your teeth." As bad as the Panthers are, they are even worse against very bad teams, going **2-14 ATS** when taking on .250 or fewer foes. In addition, Carolina is **1-8 ATS** when coming off a home loss, and 2-6 ATS on Thursdays. So now that you're ready to snap the rubber band it's time to bring in Meat Loaf from "Paradise by the Dashboard Light", who so popularly put it when he said, "Hold on, stop right there before you go any further." Aside from this game containing a long laundry list of injuries that would make Proctor and Gamble glow, it makes handicapping games like this so tenuous that all we can say is "Shame on you, NFL." And now, with Bears' quarterback Justin Fields ruled out, it should be noted that backup QBs were 3-11 overall last week. That does not bode well for the stumbling, bumbling Bears. With victories hard to come by for both teams, we close it out with a little more "Paradise by the Dashboard Light," which wrapped things up, saying, "It was long ago, and it was far away, and it was so much better than it is today." With

CURRENT NFL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

AFC Playoff Matchups –
- No. 7 Cincinnati Bengals at No. 2 Baltimore Ravens
- No. 6 Cleveland Browns at No. 3 Jacksonville Jaguars
- No. 5 Pittsburgh Steelers at No. 4 Miami Dolphins

NFC Playoff Matchups –
- No. 7 Minnesota Vikings at No. 2 Detroit Lions
- No. 6 Dallas Cowboys at No. 3 San Francisco 49ers
- No. 5 Seattle Seahawks at No. 4 New Orleans Saints

the Bears owning twice as many victories, we'd lean their way. But the truth of the matter is, if you put a gun to our heads, we'd probably say, "Pull the trigger."

Sunday, November 12

Indianapolis over NEW ENGLAND by 6
Stop the presses! The Patriots are now five games under .500 for the first time since 2000, the first season Robert Kraft hired Bill Belichick. Since then, they went 362 straight games without falling five games under .500, which was the third longest in NFL history, trailing only the Steelers (1989-active) and Dolphins (1970-2004). The problem today is the Pats are **0-7 ATS** in their last seven non-division games and just **1-10 ATS** as a dog of late. Hardly Belichick numbers, for sure. Meanwhile, the Colts remain the only team in the league to have scored more than 20 points in every game this season. They are also **6-1 ATS** in the second of consecutive away games and **5-1 ATS** in their last six AFC East encounters. With the Hoodie trending downward and the trends in this game solidly in the Colts' favor, there is only one way to look here today. We'll fade the team with the worst record in the AFC.

3★ BEST BET

Cleveland over BALTIMORE by 6
The Ravens are taking the AFC North by storm, taking a 1.5-game lead over the division into this contest. Included in the surge have been wins over two other division leaders. The maturity of QB Lamar Jackson under new OC Todd Monken has been highly noticeable. The fact of the matter is the Black Birds are also hitting on all cylinders on the other side of the ball as their No. 2 overall ranked defense has held no less than four foes to season-low yardage. In fact, they've allowed just 9 TDs in 105 drives this season – tops in the league. Meanwhile, the offense has ignited for over 500 yards in two of the last three games. The problem at hand today, though, is Jackson's inability to deliver the goods as a home favorite with the Ravens, just 13-21 ATS overall and 3-8 ATS in division duels, including **1-5 ATS** versus .500 or better foes. That could be a problem down the road for Jackson, considering that every team in the division is 5-3 or better, all playoff qualifiers today. And speaking of defense, Cleveland has now held two different opponents under 100 yards this season, which is impressive, when you consider that no other team has even done it once this season. Also, the Browns are the first team since 1992 to hold multiple teams under 100 yards in one season. Like the Ravens, Cleveland has limited four foes to season-low yards this campaign. We understand the Brownies are 0-10 ATS in games when both teams are coming off a win, but QB Deshaun Watson is **11-2-1 ATS** as a dog in this league when his team was favored by more the three points in its previous game. Remember, there was no Watson when the Ravens put a 28-3 beatdown on the Browns in an earlier meeting in October. With that, there is even more to sink your teeth into in **THE CLINCHER: See this week's TRIVIA TEASER on page 2**

CINCINNATI over Houston by 11
Talk about hot! Joe Burrow and the Bengals are on fire, riding a 4-0 SUATS win streak – all since the return to health by Burrow. Think not? Joe Brr is 59 of 76 for 513 yards, 5 TDs, and 0 INTs in his last two starts for a passer rating of 116.2. However, his counterpart, Houston

rookie QB C.J. Stroud set a single-game rookie passing record with 470 yards in last week's comeback win over the Buccaneers, and he enters this fray 173 of 279 for 2,270 yards, 14 TDs, and 1 INT for a passer rating of 102.9 through eight games. ESPN projects that to be 4,824 yards, 30 TDs, and 2 INTs for the season. That's one interception in the first eight games of his career for Stroud. In addition, per CBS Sports, Stroud also became just the third QB in NFL history to throw for at least 470 yards and five touchdowns with zero interceptions, joining Y.A. Tittle and Ben Roethlisberger. That's some impressive company, to say the least. And don't look now, but the invading Texans are 4-4 this season. While the host in this series is 0-5 ATS, we'll be fading Stroud off his record-setting effort last week, knowing the striped Cats are a mind-blowing **14-1 ATS** in the last fifteen games in which both teams arrive off a win. You know what to do.

5★ BEST BET

San Francisco over JACKSONVILLE by 13
At some point in the season, there were some who felt this could be a possible Super Bowl matchup. But that was before the s - - t hit the fan for the 49ers, who limp into this game on a rare 0-3 SUATS losing slide, with the added benefit of a Bye week. The **WOM** (Well Oiled Machine) jumps in, noting that teams off Bye and a 0-3 SUATS losing streak are 40-28-1 ATS, including 10-2 ATS versus .750 or greater foes. On the flip side, the Jags are riding a 5-0 SUATS win skein, and also check in with a week of rest. Again, the **WOM** notes that teams off a Bye on a 5-0 SUATS win skein in their last five games are just 3-8 ATS since 2009, including **0-4 ATS** against foes coming off back-to-back losses. Then there is Niners head coach Kyle Shanahan's **6-1 ATS** career record in games when coming off three consecutive ATS losses, including **4-0 ATS** away. That makes today's contest a minefield for surging Jacksonville. Making matters worse, the Niners rank 4th in the league in scoring defense and 5th on offense in Rush Attempts Per Game and Rushing Yards Per Game. We seal the deal with **THE CLINCHER: .545 or greater NFL teams who have lost each of their last three games SUATS are 8-1 SU and 9-0 ATS since 1980 versus foes who are 3-0 SUATS in their last three games.**

New Orleans over MINNESOTA by 6
Just when it looked like the Vikings filled a massive hole in their ground game with the acquisition of RB Cam Akers from the Rams, he tore his Achilles in Sunday's come-from-behind win over the Falcons. The bright spot, though, was watching newly acquired QB Joshua Dobbs, who came off the bench to lead Minny to a stirring comeback win over the Falcons. He is also just the second QB to throw at least 20 passes for two different teams in consecutive weeks (He threw 37 with the Cardinals in Week 8). The only other QB to accomplish this was Bernie Kosar, who did it with the Browns and Cowboys in 1993. Dobbs, who did not take a single snap after joining the Vikings on Wednesday, is now with his fifth team in the last two years. He majored in aerospace engineering during his time at the University of Tennessee. The university presented him with the highest honor for an undergraduate student, which recognizes accomplishments in the community and academics. Dobbs was heralded as possessing a perfect 4.0 grade point average. He's being heralded in the Twin Cities these days. Unfortunately, his team is locked in to Marc's **BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW** article on page 2. Couples with New Orleans' **8-1 ATS** log in games when coming off a win as a favorite and facing a foe off a win as a dog, along with Minny's **0-4 ATS** record in games when both teams are coming off a win, we'll march on with the Saints today.

Green Bay over PITTSBURGH by 3
You likely can't see the white elephant in the Steelers' locker room these days. That's because it's disguised with smoke and mirrors, the formula with which they win football games these days. How else would you explain Pittsburgh's 5-3 record this season despite being outgained in all eight contests while being outstatted by an average of -98 net yards per game! If they knew they were 9-0 SUATS at home in the regular season when coming off consecutive home games, they would probably dress the practice squad for today's contest. The problem is they are **0-5 ATS** against the NFC North and with the Packers 6-2 SU and **7-1 ATS** as a dog after dressing up as a favorite the last game. Look for the Burghers to crash and burn today.

Tennessee over TAMPA BAY by 4

It's agreed by most that the problems surrounding the Bucs are far removed from QB Baker Mayfield. He takes the field this Sunday with 12 TDs and 4 INTs, completing 64.9% of his tosses for 1,865 yards. A defense allowing 372 YPG (No. 29) is the main culprit as they are being outgained a net -70 yards per game. Tampa is just **1-6 ATS** when coming off back-to-back games as an underdog and 2-7 ATS as the favorite of late. More important, the **MIDWEEK ALERT** also reminds us that the Bucs are 'leaking oil', losing the stats in each of their four contests. With the Titans **7-1 ATS** in this series and sporting the better offense and the better defense in this matchup, we'll take whatever Tampa offers up.

ARIZONA over Atlanta by 4

Cardinals QB Clayton Tune became the first QB to get shut out in his first career NFL start since 2014 when it happened to Johnny Manziel. The Cardinals totaled just 58 yards of offense, which was their lowest total since 1955. That's why you won't see him on the field today. Instead, franchise QB Kyler Murray is expected back from an extended injury. That's good news for a team that is **4-0 ATS** against the NFC South the past two seasons. They are also 7-2 ATS in non-division home games. They'll host an Atlanta squad that is **0-11 ATS** in its last eleven non-division games, and **0-6 ATS** when coming off consecutive SU favorite losses. Stop the presses. Arizona wins its second game of the season.

Detroit over LA CHARGERS by 6

Now we'll find out which of these teams is a contender, or a pretender. The Lions arrive with likely more fans than the Chargers, knowing they are **10-1 ATS** when coming off a double-digit win. They are also **10-1 ATS** in games when both teams are coming off a win, as well as **6-0 ATS** as a favorite after being a favorite in its last game. The fact of the matter is we could go on and on and on lighting up the board with dandy Detroit trends. On the flip side, the Bolts return off an inside-out Monday night win over the Jets when they put up only 191 yards of total offense in a 27-6 victory. With the Chargers **1-12 ATS** against teams coming off a Bye week, look for the Lions to roar once again today.

DALLAS over NY Giants by 17

Cowboys return home on the heels of a 'game of inches' hard-luck loss at Philadelphia last week in which they dominated the Eagles on the stat sheet, 408-292 when two 4Q scoring plays were reversed upstairs. However, they can only blame themselves after letting the game slip out of their hands when it counted as the Cowboys had 1st and goal from the 6-yard line with 27 seconds left. They went: False start, Sack, Incompletion, Delay of Game, and Completion short of the goal line to end the game. An apoplectic Jerry Jones had to be spitting mad. Meanwhile, the Giants are a total mess. Starting QB Daniel Jones returned to the lineup, only to have his left knee buckle. That left them with Tommy Devito, who, under any other circumstance, should be playing in the XFL, at best. Although Devito has been announced as the starter in this game, expect to see recently-signed vagabond QB Matt Barkley behind center rather sooner than later. With Jones finished for the season, it's why this week Big Blue may close out as the biggest dog they've been in the history of our database when they took 17 at Philadelphia in the season-ending game last year. For what it's worth, they were 9.5-point dogs in this contest on the early line before last Sunday's game. That equates to a 7.5-point move based largely on Jones's loss. We're not sure he is a 7.5-point quarterback. But it's Tommy Devito, folks. Safe to say, the Giants are firmly in the Caleb Williams sweepstakes. The Boys check in mad as hell, and they are **9-0 ATS** in their last nine games when coming off a loss by an average win margin of just a shade over 17 PPG. While it's not our cup of tea, we'd say don't be afraid of the price. It's there for a reason.

SEATTLE over Washington by 3

Welcome to the NFL. A week after upsetting a team with the best defense in the league, Seattle traveled east and was shellacked last week in a 37-3 loss at Baltimore, where they got slaughtered in the stats, 151-515. They will look to get back on track against a team they've struggled with in the past, just **1-8-1 ATS** in the last ten games in this series. Meanwhile, the Commanders enter **8-1 ATS** off a win when tackling a foe off a loss as a dog. With Washington QB Sam Howell having tossed for more than 300 yards in each of his last two starts, we'll back the dog-friendly visitors.

NY Jets over LAS VEGAS by 6

Talk about two teams coming off disparate results, meet these two squads. The 30-6 win by Raiders interim coach Antonio Pierce was the fifth-largest margin of victory ever by an interim coach and the biggest since 2015 when Dan Campbell led the Dolphins to a 28-point win. Overlooked, though, was the performance by Raiders' punter A.J. Cole, who had a record-setting game against the Giants. Cole averaged 63.6 yards on five punts, breaking the previous NFL record of 63.0 yards. On the other side of the coin, the Jets were sacked 8 times against the Chargers on Monday night and have now punted 18 times over the past two weeks. And if you think that is bad, then get a load of the **UGLY STAT OF THE WEEK**, per Yahoo Sports AM, as they report over the last five seasons, only four teams have scored eight or fewer offensive TDs through eight games: the 2019 Jets, the 2020 Jets, the 2023 Giants, and the 2023 Jets. Now you know why it's hard being a football fan in New York. It makes taking flight with the Jets a rough ride. But with game film now on new Raiders' QB Aidan O'Connell, and the Jets **5-0 ATS** when coming off a home dog loss, and the Raiders **0-5 ATS** as a favorite after dressing up as a dog, we'll back the back end of last week's contrasting result.

Monday, November 13

4★ BEST BET

Catch The Buzz

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

THE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP: O/U STYLE

All games played on this week's NFL schedule are listed below. As always, the number listed <u>first</u> is the 'OVER' and the number listed <u>second</u> is the 'UNDER'. If you like what you see, there's much more – including *5 NFL O/U BEST BETS* – inside the **2023 Playbook 'TOTALS' TIPSHEET'** by Victor King – the definitive weekly OU newsletter. A single issue is only $11.00. Rest-of-Season subscription is $75.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2023 "Totals Train"!
**This week's GAME 10 Playbook O/U TREND play: Niners @ Jaguars 'UNDER' the TOTAL'*

2023 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK TEN

GAME MATCHUPS	KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
Carolina (Open: 41.5) **CHICAGO**	3-0 OU aft Indy... 3-1 OU L4 away vs Chi (44.5)... but 0-5 OU vs .250 < opp... 0-4 OU on Thursdays... 3-7 OU Game 9 3-1 OU home vs NFC South... but 2-7 OU aft NOrl... 2-7 OU bef div RG... 1-3 OU Game 10... 1-3 OU Thursdays L4Y
Indianapolis (44.5) **New England**	5-0 OU L5 vs .400 < conf opp... 3-1 OU Game 10... 6-2 OU 2nd of BB RG... 7-3 OU bef Bye... but 3-6 OU L9 vs AFC East 3-0 OU aft Wash... 7-2 OU L9 vs Indy (58.2)... but 0-3 OU aft non-conf HG... 1-7 OU Game 10... 1-5 OU bef Bye
Cleveland (41) **BALTIMORE**	4-2 OU Game 9... but 0-12 OU in 1st of BB div gms... 1-5 OU bef Pit... 1-5 OU aft non-conf HG... 1-4 OU L5 vs Balt (32.4) 5-0 OU aft Sea... 10-3 OU 2nd of 3 straight HG... but 0-6 OU in 1st of BB div gms... 2-7 OU Game 10... 2-5 OU bef Cinc
Houston (44.5) **CINCINNATI**	2-0 OU aft TB... but 0-6 OU Game 9... 1-5 OU L6 vs Cin (32.5)... 1-5 OU aft non-conf HG... 2-8 OU non-div RD's 4 > pts 6-0 OU Game 9... 3-1 OU bef div RG... but 1-5 OU bef Balt... 1-4 OU L5 vs AFC South... 3-8 OU as non-div HF's 4 > pts
San Francisco (44) **JACKSONVILLE**	0-6 OU as non-div RF's 4 < pts... 0-3 OU L3 vs AFC South... 1-6 OU away vs AFC... 1-5 OU aft Bye... 2-6 OU Game 9 0-4 OU Game 9... 0-4 OU L4 vs NFC West... 0-3 OU bef div HG... 2-8 OU home vs NFC... 1-3 OU bef Tenn
New Orleans (39) **MINNESOTA**	3-1 OU L4 vs Min (59.0)... 8-3 OU bef Bye... but 0-6 OU bef div RG... 0-5 OU aft Chi... 1-4 OU as non-div RF's 4-1 OU Game 10... 8-2 OU home off BB RG... 4-2 OU aft Atl... 4-2 OU bef Den... but 3-10 OU as HD's < 5 pts
Geeen Bay (37.5) **PITTSBURGH**	8-1 OU bef LAC... 3-1 OU L4 vs Pit (61.2)... but 0-5 OU Game 9... 1-6 OU away vs AFC... 1-3 OU vs opp off Thur gm 4-0 OU aft Tenn... but 0-3 OU vs Clev... 2-7 OU bef div RG... 1-3 OU Game 9... 1-3 OU 3rd straight HG... 2-5 OU aft Thur gm
Tennessee (38) **TAMPA BAY**	4-1 OU bef Jack... 6-3 OU away vs NFC... but 0-3 OU aft Pit... 0-3 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 1-6 OU aft Thursday gm 5-0 OU aft Hou... 5-0 OU L5 home vs AFC... 5-2 OU L7 vs Ten (46.7)... but 1-5 OU Game 9... 1-3 OU aft non-conf RG
Atlanta (41) **ARIZONA**	7-1 OU away vs NFC West... but 0-6 OU aft Min... 0-5 OU Game 10... 0-4 OU bef NOrl... 3-9 OU bef Bye Week 4-0 OU TY home vs non-div... 7-1 OU Game 10... 4-1 OU L5 vs Atl (52.8)... but 0-3 OU aft non-conf RG... 1-3 OU aft Clev
Detroit (48) **LA CHARGERS**	5-0 OU L5 away vs LAC (55.2)... 4-0 OU bef div HG... but 1-9 OU aft Bye... 2-12 OU vs opp off Mon gm... 1-3 OU bef Chi 5-1 OU bef non-conf RG... 7-2 OU aft Mon RG... but 1-9 OU L10 vs NFC North... 1-5 OU Game 9... 1-4 OU vs opp off Bye
Ny Giants (41.5) **DALLAS**	4-0 OU L4 away vs Dal (58.7)... 7-3 OU bef Wash... but 0-5 OU as RD's 7 > pts... 1-10 OU aft non-conf RG 8-1 OU L9 as div HF's... 7-2 OU as big favs > 7 pts... 3-1 OU bef Caro... but 1-4 OU aft Phil... 1-4 OU 2nd of BB div gms
Washington (44.5) **SEATTLE**	7-1 OU Game 10... but 0-7 OU bef NYG... 0-5 OU aft non-conf RG... 1-10 OU L11 vs NFC West... 1-3 OU 2nd of BB RG 5-0 OU as non-div HF's 4 > pts... but 0-4 OU L4 vs Wash (35.5)... 0-5 OU aft non-conf RG... 1-15 OU L16 vs NFC East
Ny Jets (36.5) **LAS VEGAS**	4-0 OU aft Monday gm... 3-1 OU Game 9... 3-1 OU bef Buf... but 1-4 OU aft LAC... 1-3 OU in 1st of BB RG 7-1 OU L8 vs AFC East... 3-1 OU vs opp off Mon gm... but 0-3 OU in 2nd of BB HG... 1-3 OU Game 10... 3-7 OU bef Mia
Denver (46) **BUFFALO**	6-1 OU aft KC... 4-2 OU L6 vs Buf... but 0-6 OU L6 on Mondays... 1-4 OU Game 9... 1-4 OU aft Bye... 1-4 OU bef Min 6-0 OU Game 10... 4-1 OU aft Cinc... 6-2 OU as favs 6 > pts... 4-2 OU vs opp off Bye... but 1-3 OU Monday home gm
Bye Week **Bye Week**	Kansas City Chiefs Los Angeles Rams
Bye Week **Bye Week**	Miami Dolphins Philadelphia Eagles

KENNY WHITE'S 2023 FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS
Power Ratings courtesy of KennyWhiteSports.com

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

NCAA

Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF
52	Air Force	Mountain West	102	4.5	51	James Madison	Sun Belt	102.5	2.5	43	Rutgers	Big Ten	104.5	4
126	Akron	Mid-American	81,5	2	22	Kansas	Big 12	111	3.5	129	Sam Houston St	Conference USA	80.5	3.5
4	Alabama	Southeastern	122	6	13	Kansas St	Big 12	116.5	5	110	San Diego St	Mountain West	89	4.5
84	Appalachian St	Sun Belt	95.5	4	133	Kent St	Mid-American	78.5	4.5	81	San Jose St	Mountain West	96.5	3
29	Arizona	Pac-12	108.5	4.5	26	Kentucky	Southeastern	109.5	4	35	SMU	American Athletic	106	4
77	Arizona St	Pac-12	97	4	73	Liberty	Conference USA	98	4	75	South Alabama	Sun Belt	97.5	2.5
31	Arkansas	Southeastern	107.5	4.5	106	Louisiana Tech	Conference USA	89.5	3	43	South Carolina	Southeastern	104.5	5
113	Arkansas St	Sun Belt	88.5	3.5	23	Louisville	Atlantic Coast	110.5	4.5	124	Southern Miss	Sun Belt	83.5	4
93	Army	Independent	93.5	3.5	6	LSU	Southeastern	121	5.5	88	Stanford	Pac-12	94.5	4.5
29	Auburn	Southeastern	108.5	5	102	Marshall	Sun Belt	92	4	70	Syracuse	Atlantic Coast	98.5	4.5
117	Ball St	Mid-American	86.5	2.5	31	Maryland	Big Ten	107.5	4.5	26	TCU	Big 12	109.5	5
62	Baylor	Big 12	100.5	4.5	66	Memphis	American Athletic	100	3	106	Temple	American Athletic	89.5	2.5
52	Boise St	Mountain West	102	5	25	Miami (FL)	Atlantic Coast	110	4	16	Tennessee	Southeastern	116.5	5.5
67	Boston College	Atlantic Coast	99.5	4.5	77	Miami (OH)	Mid-American	97	2.5	8	Texas	Big 12	120.5	5
117	Bowling Green	Mid-American	86.5	2	2	Michigan	Big Ten	126	5	13	Texas A&M	Southeastern	116.5	6
117	Buffalo	Mid-American	86.5	3	67	Michigan St	Big Ten	99.5	5	84	Texas St	Sun Belt	95.5	3
62	BYU	Big 12	100.5	5	106	Middle Tenn	Conference USA	89.5	3	38	Texas Tech	Big 12	105.5	5
46	California	Pac-12	104	4	60	Minnesota	Big Ten	101	4.5	57	Toledo	Mid-American	101.5	3.5
110	C Michigan	Mid-American	89	2.5	12	Mississippi	Southeastern	118	4.5	52	Troy	Sun Belt	102	4
123	Charlotte	American Athletic	84.5	2.5	43	Mississippi St	Southeastern	103.5	5	43	Tulane	American Athletic	104.5	2.5
57	Cincinnati	American Athletic	101.5	5	20	Missouri	Southeastern	111.5	4.5	121	Tulsa	American Athletic	85	4
18	Clemson	Atlantic Coast	114.5	5.5	113	Navy	American Athletic	88.5	4	99	UAB	American Athletic	92.5	4
77	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	97	3.5	47	NC State	Atlantic Coast	103.5	4.5	31	UCF	Big 12	107.5	4
73	Colorado	Pac-12	98	4.5	52	Nebraska	Big Ten	102	5	23	UCLA	Pac-12	110.5	3.5
104	Colorado St	Mountain West	90.5	4.5	130	Nevada	Mountain West	80	4.5	93	UL-Lafayette	Sun Belt	93.5	3.5
121	Connecticut	Independent	85	3	132	New Mexico	Mountain West	79.5	2	127	UL-Monroe	Sun Belt	81	2.5
38	Duke	Atlantic Coast	105.5	3.5	103	New Mexico St	Conference USA	91	2	127	UMass	Independent	81	2.5
110	East Carolina	American Athletic	89	4	20	North Carolina	Atlantic Coast	111.5	4.5	84	UNLV	Mountain West	95.5	2
116	E Michigan	Mid-American	87	2	97	North Texas	American Athletic	93	3	17	USC	Pac-12	115	4
38	Florida	Southeastern	105.5	5	99	No Illinois	Mid-American	92.5	4	104	USF	American Athletic	90.5	3
93	Florida Atlantic	American Athletic	93.5	3	88	Northwestern	Big Ten	94.5	3.5	19	Utah	Pac-12	112.5	4.5
130	Florida Int'l	Conference USA	80	2.5	8	Notre Dame	Atlantic Coast	120.5	5	91	Utah St	Mountain West	94	4
10	Florida St	Atlantic Coast	120	5	3	Ohio State	Big Ten	124	6	120	UTEP	Conference USA	85.5	3
70	Fresno St	Mountain West	98.5	4.5	75	Ohio U	Mid-American	97.5	3.5	50	UTSA	American Athletic	103	3
4	Georgia	Southeastern	122	6	13	Oklahoma	Big 12	116.5	5	88	Vanderbilt	Southeastern	94.5	4
82	Geo Southern	Sun Belt	96	2.5	31	Oklahoma St	Big 12	107.5	5	84	Virginia	Atlantic Coast	95.5	4.5
91	Georgia St	Sun Belt	94	2	106	Old Dominion	Sun Belt	89.5	2.5	62	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	100.5	5
70	Georgia Tech	Atlantic Coast	98.5	4.5	1	Oregon	Pac-12	126.5	5	60	Wake Forest	Atlantic Coast	101	4.5
125	Hawaii	Mountain West	82.5	5.5	26	Oregon St	Pac-12	109.5	5	10	Washington	Pac-12	120	4.5
57	Houston	Big 12	101.5	4.5	6	Penn St	Big Ten	121	5	47	Washington St	Pac-12	103.5	4.5
52	Illinois	Big Ten	102	4.5	62	Pittsburgh	Atlantic Coast	100.5	4.5	38	West Virginia	Big 12	105.5	5
82	Indiana	Big Ten	96	4.5	67	Purdue	Big Ten	99.5	4.5	99	W Kentucky	Conference USA	92.5	4.5
42	Iowa	Big Ten	105	5	77	Rice	American Athletic	97	2.5	115	W Michigan	Mid-American	88	3.5
35	Iowa St	Big 12	106	5						35	Wisconsin	Big Ten	106	5.5
93	Jacksonville St	Conference USA	93.5	4.5						97	Wyoming	Mountain West	93	4.5

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

NFL

Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF
30	Arizona Cardinals	NFC West	94	2.5	14	Houston Texans	AFC South	99	2.5	22	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	97	3
14	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	99	2.5	22	Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	97	3	28	New England Pats	AFC East	94.5	3
2	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	107.5	3	9	Jacksonville Jaguars	AFC South	102.5	2.5	17	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	98	3
4	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	106	3.5	1	Kansas City Chiefs	AFC West	109	3.5	31	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	92	3
26	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	95.5	2.5	26	Las Vegas Raiders	AFC West	95.5	2.5	17	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	98	2
28	Chicago Bears	NFC North	94.5	2.5	9	L.A. Chargers	AFC West	102.5	2	4	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	106.5	3
13	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	100	3	32	L.A. Rams	NFC West	90	2.5	22	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	97	3
9	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	102.5	2.5	6	Miami Dolphins	AFC East	105.5	2.5	3	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	107	3
6	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	105.5	3						12	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	100.5	3.5
19	Denver Broncos	AFC West	97.5	3						19	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	97.5	2.5
8	Detroit Lions	NFC North	104	3						14	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	99	2.5
19	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	97.5	3						22	Wash Commanders	NFC East	97	2.5

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FOR WEEK ENDING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023	3★ BEST BET	4★ BEST BET	5★ BEST BET
COLLEGE	MIAMI FLORIDA	PENN STATE	APPALACHIAN ST
NFL	BROWNS	BILLS	49ERS
UPSET GAME	TEXAS TECH	SUBSCRIBE TO PLAYBOOK TODAY: 800.752.9266	

2023 COLLEGE & PRO FOOTBALL - NOVEMBER 7-13

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

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

Column 1

#	Matchup	OL	PB
	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7		
101	OHIO 7:30 PM	7	11
102	BUFFALO ESPN2		
103	BALL STATE 7:00 PM		
104	NO ILLINOIS	10	14
105	C MICHIGAN 7:00 PM		
106	W MICHIGAN ESPNU	3'	3
	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8		
107	E MICHIGAN 7:30 PM		
108	TOLEDO ESPN2	18'	22
109	BOWLING GREEN 7:00 PM	8	5
110	KENT ST		
111	AKRON 7:00 PM		
112	MIAMI OHIO ESPNU	17	20
	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9		
113	CAROLINA 8:15 PM		
114	CHICAGO PRIME	2'	4
115	VIRGINIA 7:30 PM		
116	LOUISVILLE ESPN	20	14
117	SOUTHERN MISS 7:30 PM		
118	LOUISIANA ESPNU	12	8
	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10		
119	NORTH TEXAS 9:00 PM		
120	SMU ESPN2	15'	21
121	WYOMING 10:45 PM		3
122	UNLV FS1	4'	
	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11		
123	EAST CAROLINA 4:00 PM		
124	FLA ATLANTIC ESPN+	9'	14
125	ALABAMA 12:00 PM	11	6
126	KENTUCKY ESPN		
127	MIAMI FLORIDA★ 3:30 PM		1
128	FLORIDA ST ABC	14'	
129	VANDERBILT 12:00 PM		
130	S CAROLINA SEC	14'	10
131	DUKE 8:00 PM		
132	N CAROLINA ACC	11'	15
133	VIRGINIA TECH 12:00 PM		3
134	BOSTON COLL ACC	2'	

Column 2

#	Matchup	OL	PB
135	NC STATE 2:00 PM	2'	
136	WAKE FOREST CW		6
137	GEORGIA TECH 12:00 PM		
138	CLEMSON ABC	14'	8
139	CONNECTICUT 2:00 PM		
140	J MADISON ESPN+	27	31
141	OKLAHOMA ST 3:30 PM	2'	
142	UCF ESPN		6
143	OLE MISS 7:00 PM		
144	GEORGIA ESPN	11	16
145	MINNESOTA 3:30 PM		6
146	PURDUE NBC	1	
147	MEMPHIS 2:00 PM	11'	15
148	CHARLOTTE ESPN+		
149	MICHIGAN 12:00 PM	5	
150	PENN ST★ FOX		6
151	TEMPLE 12:00 PM		
152	S FLORIDA ESPN+	8	4
153	TEXAS ST ESPN+		3
154	COASTAL CARO 3:30 PM	1'	
155	APPALACHIAN ST★ 2:00 PM		10
156	GEORGIA ST ESPN+	2'	
157	GA SOUTHERN 7:00 PM	2	
158	MARSHALL NFL		6
159	TEXAS TECH★ 12:00 PM		7
160	KANSAS FS1	3'	
161	NORTHWESTERN 3:30 PM		
162	WISCONSIN FS1	11'	14
163	RUTGERS 3:30 PM		
164	IOWA BTN	2	5
165	OLD DOMINION 1:00 PM		
166	LIBERTY ESPN+	13'	17
167	NEW MEXICO 10:00 PM		
168	BOISE ST FS1	26'	34
169	ARIZONA 2:00 PM	9'	6
170	COLORADO P12		
171	IOWA ST 10:15 PM	7	11
172	BYU ESPN		
173	NEVADA 3:00 PM		
174	UTAH ST	16'	20
175	WASHINGTON ST 4:00 PM		3
176	CALIFORNIA ESPN2	1	
177	UTAH 3:30 PM		
178	WASHINGTON FOX	9	4

Column 3

#	Matchup	OL	PB
179	ARIZONA ST 9:00 PM		
180	UCLA P12	17	10
181	STANFORD 5:30 PM		
182	OREGON ST P12	21	20
183	SAM HOUSTON ST 3:00 PM		
184	LA TECH ESPN+	8	6
185	USC 10:30 PM		
186	OREGON FOX	14'	6
187	BAYLOR 3:00 PM		
188	KANSAS ST B12	20'	24
189	RICE 7:30 PM		
190	UTSA ESPNU	12'	8
191	INDIANA 12:00 PM		
192	ILLINOIS BTN	6	10
193	TROY 2:00 PM	21	22
194	UL MONROE ESPN+		
195	TENNESSEE 3:30 PM	1'	
196	MISSOURI CBS		3
197	AUBURN 4:00 PM		
198	ARKANSAS SEC	3	7
199	FLORIDA 7:30 PM		
200	LSU SEC	13'	13
201	WEST VIRGINIA 7:00 PM		
202	OKLAHOMA FOX	12'	21
203	TEXAS 7:30 PM	10	3
204	TCU ABC		
205	MISSISSIPPI ST 7:30 PM		
206	TEXAS A&M ESPN2	18	11
207	CINCINNATI 7:00 PM		4
208	HOUSTON FS1	2'	
209	TULSA 12:00 PM		
210	TULANE ESPN2	23	28
211	NEW MEXICO ST 3:30 PM		
212	W KENTUCKY ESPN+	5	1
213	PITTSBURGH 3:30 PM (at Bronx, NY)	1'	8
214	SYRACUSE ACC		
215	UAB 3:30 PM	5	
216	NAVY CBSSN		1
217	MARYLAND 12:00 PM	2	2
218	NEBRASKA PCOCK		
219	FLORIDA INT'L 3:30 PM		
220	MIDDLE TENN ESPN+	11	10
221	ARKANSAS ST 5:00 PM		
222	S ALABAMA ESPN+	11	6

Column 4

#	Matchup	OL	PB
223	SAN DIEGO ST 7:00 PM		1
224	COLO ST CBSSN	4	
225	MICHIGAN ST 7:30 PM		
226	OHIO ST NBC	30'	27
227	FRESNO ST 10:30 PM	1	
228	SAN JOSE ST CBSSN		6
229	AIR FORCE 11:00 PM	19	19
230	HAWAII		
	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12		
241	INDIANAPOLIS 9:30 AM (at Frankfurt)		6
242	NEW ENGLAND NFL	Pk	
243	CLEVELAND★ 1:00 PM		6
244	BALTIMORE FOX	5'	
245	HOUSTON 1:00 PM		
246	CINCINNATI CBS	7	11
247	SAN FRANCISCO★ 1:00 PM	3	13
248	JACKSONVILLE FOX		
249	NEW ORLEANS 1:00 PM	2'	6
250	MINNESOTA FOX		
251	GREEN BAY 1:00 PM		3
252	PITTSBURGH CBS	3	
253	TENNESSEE 1:00 PM		4
254	TAMPA BAY CBS	1'	
255	ATLANTA 4:05 PM	3	
256	ARIZONA CBS		4
257	DETROIT 4:05 PM		6
258	LA CHARGERS CBS	Pk	
259	NY GIANTS 4:25 PM		
260	DALLAS FOX	15	17
261	WASHINGTON 4:25 PM		
262	SEATTLE FOX	6	3
263	NY JETS 8:20 PM	1'	6
264	LAS VEGAS NBC		
	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13		
265	DENVER ESPN 8:15 PM		
266	BUFFALO★ ABC	7'	16

BYES: Kansas City, LA Rams, Miami, Philadelphia

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