



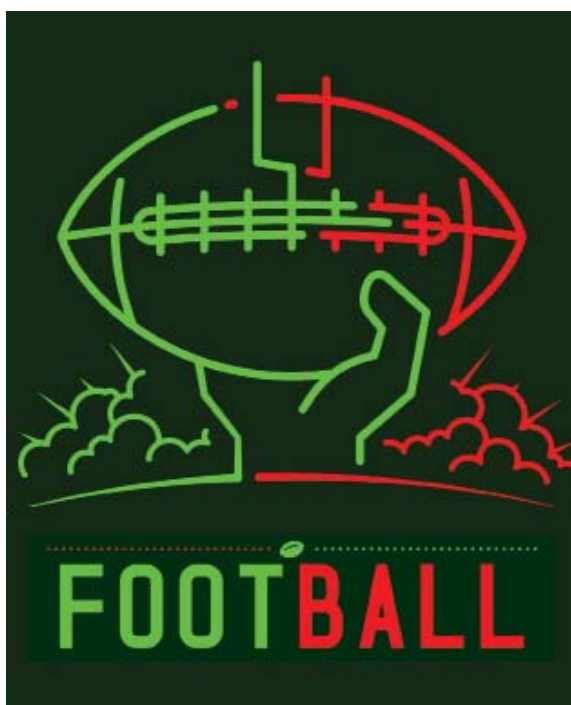
Volume 39, Issue 9

October 15-21, 2024

Marc's CFB False Favorite Game Of The Year: Oregon +3 - WINNER!

4 AND 5-STAR HEAVEN CFB BEST BETS 70%!

88% ATS AWESOME ANGLE INSIDE!



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

A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping

Sometimes the best interactions are the most complicated. Particularly the ones where the pain is taxing, and the thought of going forward is concerning.

The same ideology applies to the best football teams, too. And largely so, might I add, for winning teams accustomed to traveling along a winning path, only to incur a series of unexpected misfortunes along the way. Let me explain.

When a team is winning, they often times view life through rose-colored glasses. When they're not, the picture seems to dim to black and white. It's the good quality teams, though, that refuse to 'let the sun go down on them' when a setback develops. With that logic in mind, suppose we were to...

PLAY ON any greater-than .800 college football conference underdog off 3 ATS losses if they were favored by 10 or more points in their last game.

By doing so, you can rest assured these top-quality clubs know the sun will rise sooner than later. In addition, they also have the ability to straighten out their problems long before the sun goes down. A stellar 23-9 ATS record by these teams in this game situation since 1980 confirms it.

While it's likely a once-a-year scenario, it's one worth waiting on, just like Coastal Carolina did most recently in 2022 when they took 2.5 points against Marshall and delivered a convincing 23-13 victory.

FYI: Better yet, if these same frustrated conference dogs were favored by more than 23 points in their last game, they zoom to **10-1 ATS** in this role. Say hello to the **Georgia Bulldogs** this week.

So just when it appears that bad times suddenly rears its ugly head for quality teams, pay heed to these wise words from Sir Elton John, who insisted it's not likely to last when he told us long ago:

***Don't let the sun go down on me
Although I searched myself,
it's always someone else I see
I'd just allow a fragment
of your life to wander free
But losing everything
is like the sun going
down on me.***


This is it: My once-a-month **College Football 5-Star Game of the Month** and it goes this Saturday. And if it's anything like my College Football September 5-Star game of the Month when Kentucky beat Ole Miss outright as a 15-point dog, you won't want to miss this beauty. It will be available on either a "pay after you win" basis or a discounted "prepaid" basis at PlaybookSports.com this Friday any time after 2:00 PM ET. Or best of all, get it with my **5-Star Football Weekend of Winners** for only \$99. Call **800.321.7777** for fast, friendly customer service – you'll be glad you did!

Marc Lawrence

LATE BREAKING BEST BETS!

PLAYBOOK MIDWEEK ALERT NEWSLETTER

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TRIVIA TEASER

THIS WEEK'S AMAZING SITUATIONAL PLAY

This coach shines in road games, going 84-54-8 ATS in his career, including **35-15-1 ATS** if his team was favored by six or more points in its last game. Who is this week's road monster?

For the Trivia Teaser answer, turn to page 13.

E ANGLE OF THE WEEK

PLAY ON any unrested 5-1 college football underdog of 7 or fewer points in Game Seven if they are off one win-exact that was preceded by a loss.

Play ON:
ILLINOIS, TENNESSEE (10/19)

7UP

**ATS W-L
Record S/1980:
14-2
(88%)**

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

2-MINUTE HANDICAP



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

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

College Football Games

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

TEAMS KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS

Friday, October 18

Oklahoma St
BYU SERIES: Won 40-3 LY... 3-0 Game 7... 1-5 L6 w/ sing revenge
4-1 w/ rev L3Y... 7-2 on Wkdays... 4-2 Gm 7... 4-2 aft Arizona

Saturday, October 19

Miami Fla
LOUISVILLE 7-3 in 2nd of BB RG... 2-8 L10 w/ rest... 2-5 w/ sing revenge
SERIES: won 38-31 LY / 7-2 L9... 1-4-1 vs sing rev... 2-5 Gm 7

Alabama
TENNESSEE SERIES: 6-2 L8... 4-1 L5 vs sing rev... 7-3 as conf RF/RD 4 < pts
4-1 L5 w/ sing rev... 4-1 as conf fav/ dog 4 < pts... 1-6 Game 7

Virginia
CLEMSON SERIES: Visitor 4-0... 7-0 L7 as DD conf RD's... 6-0 Game 7
4-1 as conf HF's 10 > pts... 1-3 Gm 7... 1-3 bef Week of Rest

Kansas St
W VIRGINIA SERIES: 2-0 L2... 11-3 vs doub rev... 8-2 in 2nd of BB RG
0-3-1 in 2nd of BB conf HG... 1-3 L4 w/ doub rev... 3-6 Gm 7

Michigan
ILLINOIS 5-0 Gm 7... 5-1 as conf fav/ dog 4 < pts... 0-3 off DD SU loss
SERIES: 3-0 L3... 3-1 vs conf opp w/ rest... 2-5 in 2nd of BB HG

Tcu
UTAH SERIES: 2-0 SUATS L2... 1-4 off DD home loss... 3-8 L11 w/ rest
4-1 aft Ariz St... 3-1-1 aft Weekday game... 0-3 vs opp w/ rest

Lsu
ARKANSAS 11-0 Game 7... 1-7 away vs doub rev... 1-3 in 1st of BB RG
SERIES: 4-1-1 L5... 6-1 hm w/ doub rev... 2-9 off conf dog win

Georgia
TEXAS 1-8 Gm 7... 1-6 as conf dogs < 8 pts... 2-11 bef Week of Rest
0-5 aft Oklahoma... 1-7 Game 7... 1-5-1 as HF's 7 < pts

Nebraska
INDIANA 7-3 in 1st of BB RG... 1-3 aft allow 7 < pts... 2-6 w/ rest
7-0 off DD conf rd win... 5-1 in 1st of BB HG... 3-8 as favs 7 < pts

NFL Games

TEAMS KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS

Thursday, October 17

Denver
N ORLEANS 1-8 away w/ OU < 40 pts... 1-4 Thursdays L5Y... 2-6 aft div HG
5-1 aft Chi... 3-1 L4 vs AFC East... 3-1 non-div favs > 3 pts

Sunday, October 20

New England
Jacksonville SERIES: 6-2 L8... 3-1 on neutral sites... 2-9 bef div HG
3-0 OU vs NEng (59.6)... 7-1 OU as favs > 3 pts

Seattle
ATLANTA 4-1 away off div HG... 5-2 aft Thur gm... 6-3 off DD home loss
SERIES: 4-1-1 L6... 3-1 vs opp off Thur... 1-6 L7 as non-div HF's

Tennessee
BUFFALO 4-1 aft Indy... 10-4 as dogs 6 > pts... 2-6 away vs AFC East
SERIES: 4-2 L6... 7-3 bef non-conf RG... 2-5 L7 vs AFC South

Cincinnati
CLEVELAND 3-0 bef non-conf HG... 9-1 aft non-conf RG... 5-1 in 2nd of BB RG
SERIES: Host 4-0... 3-0 home off BB RG... 5-1 home vs div L2Y

Houston
GREEN BAY 5-2 in 2nd of BB RG... 0-5 Game 7... 1-6-1 L8 vs NFC North
SERIES: 3-0 L3... 7-3 in 2nd of BB HG... 6-3 bef non-conf RG

Miami
INDIANAPOLIS SERIES: Visitor 5-0... 4-0 aft div RG... 3-0 in 2nd of BB RG
4-0 bef div RG... 6-1 L7 vs AFC East... 7-2 vs opp off Bye

Detroit
MINNESOTA SERIES: 7-0 L7... 6-1 L7 div RG... 4-1 vs undef opp... 4-2 aft Dal
7-1 bef Rams... 3-1-1 aft Bye... 4-2 aft Jets... 0-5 L5 div HG

Philadelphia
NY GIANTS 3-1 bef non-conf RG... 2-9-1 L12 div RG... 1-3-1 aft non-conf HG
SERIES: 3-1 L4... 4-1 aft Cinc... 4-1 home vs opp w/ sing rev

Las Vegas
LA RAMS 4-0-1 vs opp off Bye... 5-1-1 bef div HG... 1-4 L5 non-conf RG
SERIES: 6-0 L6... 5-0 bef Min... 4-1 as non-div favs > 3 pts

Carolina
WASHINGTON 5-0 bef Den... 2-0-1 aft Atl... 3-1 aft div HG... 0-6 L6 vs NFC East
SERIES: 3-1 L4... 4-1 L5 vs NFC South... 6-3 aft non-conf RG

Kansas City
SAN FRAN SERIES: 5-1 L6... 9-0 as road dogs... 7-1 L8 non-conf RG
6-1 as non-div favs 4 < pts... 4-1 aft div RG... 5-2 vs opp off Bye

NY Jets
PITTSBURGH SERIES: 3-1 L4... 0-13-1 aft Bills... 0-5 in 1st of BB RG
2-8-1 L11 vs AFC East... 1-3 in 1st of BB HG... 3-11 aft Raiders

Monday, October 21

Baltimore
TAMPA BAY SERIES: Visitor 6-0... 4-0 in 1st of BB RG... 8-1-1 Monday RG
8-3 home off BB RG... 0-4 L4 vs AFC North... 1-6 bef div HG

LA Chargers
ARIZONA SERIES: 3-1 L4... 6-0-1 Monday RG... 9-2 L11 non-conf RG
SERIES: 3-1 L4... 0-4 Mondays L4Y... 3-7 bef non-conf RG

BYES: Chicago Bears, Dallas Cowboys

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INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

Since joining the ACC in 1992,
Florida State has defeated Duke in each
of its 22 games, all as a favorite.

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



7TH HELL

Game 7 of the College Football season can mean many things to many teams. For most, they've crossed

the halfway point of the season. For others envisioning the possibility of a perfect season, it can be the test of whether or not that dream will likely become a reality.

However, according to our powerful database, 6-0 teams playing Game 7 do not want to take on an opponent in an angry mood – read: coming off an outright loss as a favorite – as they struggle mightily against these angry foes who are coming in mad as hell. They have gone just 17-8 SU and 6-19 ATS, including **0-10 ATS** since 2010.

This week finds the **Army, BYU, and Iowa State** in this unfriendly role.

Taking it one step further, when these same teams engage in a conference contest, they fall to 14-8 SU and 4-18 ATS, including 9-8 SU and **2-15 ATS** when facing a .500 or greater opponent.

Think about that for a moment. We are saying that when these teams find themselves in this "7TH HELL" role, as outlined in the paragraph above, they will fall short of a perfect season nearly fifty percent of the time!

That is potentially alarming news for the **Black Knights, the Cougars, and the Cyclones** this week.

So, while it may be hell fading these 'hotter than Hades' teams this week, it should be a move you'll be glad you made.

THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL - OCTOBER 15-21

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Tuesday, October 15

SOUTH ALABAMA over Troy by 6

If you watch a South Alabama game, you will get offense from both teams. The Jags are ranked 17th in yards per game in offense and 118th in defense, giving up 140 yards per game more than in 2023. Troy has taken a hard fall from last year, but you could see it coming given the lack of returning experience, ranked 129th with just six starters back. The senior classes from 2022 and 2023 won 23 games combined, exactly 22 more than the Trojans have going into Tuesday night. Yet, we have found some hope for Troy, an 11-6-1 ATS mark as a double-digit road dog and **6-0 SUATS** success in the last six games of this series combined with USA's 5-10 ATS chunk of mediocrity as a double-digit favorite. Thanks to injuries, Troy's offense hasn't completely settled on a starting QB, but they have a stud WR in Devonte Ross, who should be able to move comfortably through the turnstile secondary of the Jaguars that ranks last in the Sun Belt.

MTSU over Kennesaw State by 14

Egad, MTSU being a double-digit favorite is a major indictment of Kennesaw State. The Blue Man Group is 1-5 In the Stats by an average of 100 yards per game, and they are the big favorite here. Kennesaw State is being outgained by 224 yards per game and is coming off surrendering 577 yards in a loss to Jacksonville State. The Blue was raided for 500 yards by Louisiana Tech, the third time MTSU has given up that many yards. Another reminder: they are a double-digit favorite. They have given up 40 or more points four times, and again, they are a big favorite in this game. MTSU is ranked 125th defensively, Kennesaw #115. Middle does have the conference's leading passer in junior Nick Vattiano, who is making his 19th straight start on Tuesday. You don't have to worry about "stopping the run" against MTSU; they do it for you and are ranked last in the conference in rushing offense. The Blue Light Special is Middle's sterling 16-1 SU and 11-5-1 ATS mark as chalk of seven or more. Kennesaw is looking for its first FBS win after success at the FCS level. What we need is to arrange the "Playbook Bowl" between Kennesaw and Kent State, the two worst in the nation this year. The winner gets a year's supply of stale bagels.

Louisiana Tech over NEW MEXICO STATE by 10

Another rough one on Tuesday with New Mexico State dragging in a five-game losing streak and being outscored by 118 points, connecting around 40 percent of its passes and hitting 31.5% of third downs. The Bulldogs are the Big Dogs of this awful Tuesday night slate with a record of 2-3 and coming off routing MTSU. Tech will have to win in the air, as their leading rusher through five games has a total of 108 yards. Undoubtedly, the Techsters are the superior crew, but here comes **Ruby Tuesday** again to point out that the away team on Tuesday, coming off a SUATS win, is 0-9 SU and 2-7 ATS since 2017. Tech is also a terrible **1-6 ATS** in weekday games, while the Aggies are just terrible. NMSU has been crushed every game by an average of -200 net yards. It's hard to believe the Aggies won 10 games last year because they're like a bowler who shot 300 in one game, then 160 in the next. We're not sure even Walter White's infamous "Blue Sky" will ease the pain for New Mexico State football this year.

Wednesday, October 16

Western Kentucky over SAM HOUSTON STATE by 3

Wednesday's here to save the early week with a strong matchup between the 4-2 Hilltoppers and 5-1 Sam Houston. Both teams have a legit shot at winning the conference regular season title, sitting at 2-0, tied with Jacksonville State for second behind 3-0 Liberty. The Bearkats opened FBS Year One with an eight-game losing streak but have gone 8-2 since. QB Hunter Watson is a legit dual threat, with nine combined touchdowns, while his Hilltoppers counterpart Caden Veltkamp has 11 TD passes and four on the ground. WKU has recovered nicely from a 63-point loss to Alabama in Week 1 and

looks like a bowl team for the 10th time in 11 years. WKU has shown strength on the road, going 15-4-1 ATS as a road dog in the Sun Belt, including a **6-0 ATS** run with a winning record that will penetrate the foggiest of brains. Hilltoppers' Head Coach Tyson Helton also carries a rep for putting cash in people's pockets, going 10-5 SUATS road record after a previous loss. Much as we are enamored with SHSU and their turnaround, a 1-4 outright record against winning teams is a giant STOP sign even Mr. Magoo could see.

Florida International over UTEP by 8

We've gone from the ridiculous to the sublime and now back to the ridiculous. To borrow a tennis term, UTEP has been bageled at 0-6 while scoring 16 PPG. FIU at least has a win but also somehow lost to Monmouth (that's to Monmouth, not at Monmouth, although the Daily Racing Form wouldn't have nice things to say about the Panthers), losing the stats in five of six. But it's on the schedule, so load 'em in the starting gate, and we're off. Making matters worse, FIU has been out-yarded in 15 of its last 17 games yet finds itself the road favorite, which sums up 2024 UTEP football in a sentence. The Miners pulled off the upset last year in Miami while being a 3.5-point underdog, and we can't see back-to-back wins for UTEP, even one year apart.

Thursday, October 17

VIRGINIA TECH over Boston College by 3

It can't be a good sign in Blacksburg when the Sports Illustrated Virginia Tech page asks, "Why Do the Hokies Keep Making Coaching Errors?" VT is 5-1 ATS as a conference favorite of 7 or greater but **1-9 ATS** when coming off a road win, such as Week 5's win over The Tree at Stanford. Coming off rest, it takes time for the Hokies to get their sea legs; they're 1-4 ATS at home with rest. Boston College had a cup of coffee in the Top 25 this season but are 2-2 after a 2-0 start. The Eagles packed double revenge in their carry-ons and a 7-2 ATS record as conference dogs with double revenge. Weekdays, BC is 10-7-3 ATS. The Eagles are only giving up 17.7 PPG and have one of the more capable QBs in the ACC in Thomas Castellanos, who delivered some nice stats but not a victory against Virginia two weeks ago. BC hasn't won in Lane Stadium since 2018, and a sold-out Orange Effect crowd will be hyped from the opening notes of Metallica's "Enter Sandman". Say your prayers, little one. Don't forget, my son, to take the points in an even matchup.

MARSHALL over Georgia State by 5

Georgia State has a win over Vanderbilt, which looks better all the time, but dropped their last two games in Sun Belt play to Georgia Southern and Old Dominion, so the air is running out of the balloon for the Panthers to have a say in the Sun Belt East race (bowl hopes are also beginning to look

2024 COLLEGE FOOTBALL CURRENT AP POLL

First Place votes in parenthesis, followed by total points.

1. Texas (6-0) (56)	1,544	14. Tex A&M (5-1)	744
2. Oregon (6-0) (6)	1,493	15. Boise St (5-1)	597
3. Penn St (6-0)	1,380	16. Indiana (6-0)	580
4. Ohio St (5-1)	1,357	17. Kansas St (4-1)	567
5. Georgia (5-1)	1,300	18. Ole Miss (5-2)	511
6. Miami FL (6-0)	1,232	19. Missouri (5-1)	409
7. Alabama (5-1)	1,127	20. Pittsburgh (6-0)	397
8. LSU (5-1)	994	21. SMU (5-1)	260
9. Iowa St (6-0)	982	22. Illinois (5-1)	249
10. Clemson (5-1)	980	23. Army (6-0)	137
11. Tennessee (5-1)	959	24. Michigan (4-2)	133
12. Notre Dame (5-1)	914	25. Navy (5-0)	84
13. BYU (6-0)	889	14 others receiving votes	

Marc Lawrence's



**FIVE STAR
CFB Game
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pale). Marshall is 3-3, but it's not loaded with high quality; the Herd is 1-4 ITS (In The Stats) against FBS foes, losing that stats battle by -127 yards per game. Marshall will need RB A.J. Turner in his best form, especially since the Herd has a modest passing attack, although an impressive 15:2 TD / INT ratio with a two QB "system" that's more borne from not being able to nail down a clear number one between Stone Earle and Braylon Braxton. GSU is in the same leaky dinghy trying to figure out who QB1 is, either up-and-coming Christian Velleux or former Pitt Panther Zach Gibson, who has faltered lately. Georgia State brings a fat stat to the hills of Huntington, WV, **10-1 ATS** as the underdog when a favorite the previous game, enough of an edge to tilt our wheels towards the visitors.

Friday, October 18

Florida State over DUKE by 6

We would lose every time if you or I teed it up against Scottie Scheffler. Try to take down the Joker in a tennis match. You know the result. Incredibly, Duke has had that same lack of success against FSU on the gridiron, 22 games, 22 losses. If ever there was going to be a year to end that, it would be the 1-5 Noles, outgained in every game this year, that Duke could finally handle. Duke has also never been favored in this one-sided series until this year. The Blue Devils are a solid but harmless 5-1, coming off a bye week following a loss to Georgia Tech. The Seminoles drag in a real drag of an offense, averaging 273.5 yards per game, down there with the likes of Akron, New Mexico State, UL-Monroe, and Temple. FSU Head Coach Mike Norvell is probably wondering if his swipe card will stop working one day at the office while his team continues to plummet. Remember, the Noles were a pre-season #10 in the AP Poll and +150 to make the first 12-team CFP, and now even the Three-Day Old Sushi Bowl is a dream in Tallahassee. This is so fishy, so off the trail that you will find the Seminoles taking shelter on Playbook Page 3's **INCREDIBLE STAT BOX**. FSU football has been MIA in the win column in 2024, but we tag them as a **DIA-DIA, Dominating Dogs in Action, Doing it Again**. This is a chance for the aging former contender to land one last good punch against the younger upstart, and we're siding with history here.

Oregon over PURDUE by 20

Purdue QB Hudson Card should avoid reading anything about Wally Pipp because what happened to the former Yankees first baseman may be happening to him. Card was forced to miss last week's game versus Illinois, and freshman signal caller Ryan Browne led a wild second half comeback to overcome a 27-3 deficit to send the game into overtime before the Illini won 50-49. Purdue coach Ryan Walters named Browne to take on the second-ranked Ducks, who hit the road after an emotional win over Ohio State in Eugene. The affair featured seven lead changes and felt like a CFP preview since both teams seem virtually guaranteed to make the top 12. Dark horse Heisman candidate Dillon Gabriel was brilliant in the W, accounting for three scores and

341 passing yards, while RB Jordan James made it three straight 100-yard rush games. The talent gap in this one is the size of the Oregon Trail, but this visit to West Lafayette shouts "Letdown!" from the highest mountain ranges, and the cold-hearted numbers back it up. Oregon is **0-4 ATS** as a favorite of more than 21 points after playing a B1G team, plus the Ducks are an unsteady 1-5 ATS as a 20+ favorite on Friday nights. Let's add more spice to the recipe, such as 2-7 ATS after taking down an undefeated opponent while an underdog, and that includes 0-4 ATS if the Ducks hold a .900 or better win percentage. There's good news and bad news for the Boilermakers; the bad news is that they are losing in the stats by an average of 207 yards per game. The good news is Purdue is 12-1 ATS as a dog of 21 or greater. Short rest on the road, an emotional game before, and a Top 25 team next week equals a foot-long letdown sandwich not even a duck can handle.

3★ BEST BET

BYU over Oklahoma State by 3

Take a trip in the time machine to pre-season, when Oklahoma State was thought to be one of the Big 12's best. Running back, Ollie Gordon III was a Heisman candidate, and BYU was consigned to 13th place in the early conference polls. Toes have met leather, and BYUs already exceeded last season's five-win total, while the Cowboys are 3-3/0-3. Gordon opened the season with a three-TD, 126-yard performance on August 31st, but he hasn't found the end zone since the second game of the season and hasn't rushed for more than 76 yards in a game. This is a last-stand game for the Cowboys, and the numbers suggest they have a last shot... 11-6 SUATS in game 7 conference games, **6-1 SUATS** with rest, plus 10-3 off a SU home loss of 14 or more points. Mike Gundy is 18-9 ATS off back-to-back losses, but the former OSU QB could probably throw for 300 against his current defense, which is ranked 130th, giving up almost 494 yards per game. BYU insists this is not a revenge game, despite the 40-34 loss in Stillwater knocking the Cougars out of a bowl. The bucolic setting in Provo, Utah, brings to mind the **MIDWEEK ALERT** to remind you there's danger in them thar hills. BYU seemingly throttled Arizona last week 41-19 but only outgained the Wildcats by nine yards. It's time to lasso the Cougars with **THE CLINCHER. BYU has gone through all security levels to become a big-time fade in this week's SMART BOX on PAGE 3**. We're not sure the carpet matched the drapes in that game, plus we expect a desperate bunch of Cowboys. Almost as desperate as Jerry Jones's.

Fresno State over NEVADA by 10

NOTE: This game has been moved from Saturday to Friday night. If defense truly wins championships, don't look for either squad to challenge for the MWC title in 2024. But in this particular matchup, Fresno State's defense is giving up far less ground to opponents than Nevada's stop unit. The 3-3 / 1-1 Bulldogs might be mired in the middle of the Mountain West, but they have managed to hold a pair of teams to season-low yards this campaign. Somehow, Nevada upset Oregon State 42-37 last week despite being hammered in the stats, 562-422, but the fact is the Wolf Pack's 407-yard defense has yielded season-high yards on three occasions this year. Yes, the Bulldogs have struggled of late in this series, but they're 10-3 ATS on this field and are 7-3 ATS overall when taking points from Nevada. Fresno's 9-2 ATS record off a home game versus a foe off a home game looks to be the deciding factor here.

Saturday, October 19

IOWA STATE over Central Florida by 6

The Cyclones are 6-0 for the first time in 86 years, and it hasn't been done the easy way. Four times, ISU trailed when the second half started, but deficits were erased in part by shutdown defensive efforts and the efficient quarterbacking of Rocco Becht. UCF has had its druthers with undefeated teams, going 8-1 ATS in the last nine, but this has turned into a challenging year for the Knights. Seven players have entered the transfer portal, and QB K.J. Jefferson's status is shaky. Our friend Kenny White, the Power Ranking guru, says Jefferson is worth five in the point spread, so double and even triple-check on Jefferson. Don't ask UCF Coach Gus Malzahn; he's not sharing information. No matter what, if KJ Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson, or George Jefferson is playing, expect a heavy load from RB RJ Harvey, the Big 12 leader with nine rush TDs. Like BYU, Iowa State defies expectations; they

(continued on next page)

were chosen sixth in the preseason poll. Now the Cyclones are a Top 10 AP Poll team talking about playoffs in Ames. Before you book your travel to Iowa, we suggest spending a little time rummaging through **THE SMART BOX on page 3** as to why we're supporting the Space Coast this week instead of the heartland. Borrowing from John Mellencamp... check it out; we hope you'll understand better.

Wake Forest over UCONN by 3

Connecticut is certainly taking independence with some whimsical scheduling that welcomes the ACC to E. Hartford. The Huskies have also battled teams from the Big 10, the American Athletic Conference, the MAC, and wherever Temple is these days. The fruit salad schedule has been good to UConn; they're 4-2, while Wake Forest is a quiet 2-4 but 2-0 SUATS in games versus the Huskies. UConn may be shaking off past failures, but inviting battle with the ACC hasn't worked well, being 1-4-1 ATS against under .500 ACC foes. Wake will have to improve its passing attack to snatch the W, but we're quickly reminded that the Deacs are **5-0 ATS** as a single-digit dog of two or more points. Connecticut can also be generous defensively. Yep, UConn is a slight favorite here. The times, they are a'changin'.

ARMY over East Carolina by 10

Welcome back to the top 25 Army! The West Pointers last appeared in 2020 for two weeks, making it even more exciting is an equally undefeated Navy team ranked two spots below Army at #25. We may have these teams meeting for the conference championship and then holding their annual battle one week later. Will the Pirates rob us of that chance? No team Army has played this season has slowed the Knights' potent running attack, the best in the nation at 370 yards per game. ECU has the formula, and everyone else does, too. The Pirates are, not surprisingly, dangerous in visiting waters, going **8-0 SU and 6-2 ATS** in this series. Pirates are known for sneaking up on unsuspecting victims and boarding without warning. We're going to fire a flare from Page 3's **SMART BOX** to place Army on Purple and Gold Alert.

James Madison over GEORGIA SOUTHERN by 14

We are nothing if not a friendly bunch at the Playbook, and this time, we're offering some warning to Georgia Southern. The Mad Men from Virginia are salty about being 5-1 and "also receiving votes" instead of firmly inside the AP Top 25. Dukes' QB Alonza Barnett III hasn't thrown a pick since opening weekend and has 15 TD tosses on his resume. If that's not enough, he's rushed for five scores. The Eagles got off on the wrong wing defensively in their first two games, but that side of the ball has settled nicely. All the Dukes do these days is win, 11-2 last year, and the chance to reach ten or more this year is very much in play. These Dukes are a hazard, and the **MIDWEEK ALERT** isn't bringing a bunch of daisies for Georgia Southern by pointing out the -2.2 net yards per game GSU has compared to the Duke Boys +2.1 net yards per game. Generally speaking, that's not an alert but an alarm.

LOUISVILLE over Miami Fla by 3

The brilliance of Canes' QB Cam Ward has overshadowed some rough play by the Hurricanes in their last two games. Of course, some of it was Ward's fault, thanks to turnovers, but his ability to rally the team has kept Miami inside the Top 10 and undefeated. Miami hasn't seen a talent like his at QB maybe ever, even with Heisman winners Vinny Testaverde and Gino Torretta in the UM Sports Hall of Fame. Ward's arm accounts for 400 of the 583.8 yards per game, giving The U the nation's top offense. Usually, resting up in Miami is a good thing, but the Canes have difficulty getting loose after Happy Hour, going 2-8 ATS in the last ten games off a bye. Louisville is what we call a hot dog, but it is more dangerous than the ones that have been circling for six hours at your local gas station. Cardinals' HC Jeff Brohm is also **11-5 ATS** when the desert turns its back on him. Each of Miami's last two games has come down to the final seconds. That falling behind approach will leave the Hurricanes behind in the starting gate in the shadow of Churchill Downs.

Ohio over Miami (OH) by 3

Let's check through some notes here. One team is 4-2/2-0, coming off a bye week, and before that, its first road win of the year. They have a top-30 offense and are in a three-way tie for first. The other is 2-4/1-1 and, while coming off a victory, has one of the MAC's weakest offenses. That team is 2-4 SUATS and in the Stats this season. However, when you check out the big bettors' board, feel free to use the Jimi Hendrix line from "Red House" ---- "Wait a minute, something's

wrong here." Somehow, Miami is favored, and it's not as if Oxford, Ohio, is a venerable snake pit of college football nor an incredibly long road trip for the Bobcats to make. We can't take our eyes off this one; it's just too good to be true. This is an offer you can't refuse, and there's no threat of having your brains on the contract unless you are running with a rough crowd.

TEMPLE over Tulsa by 2

You're probably better off having tee time at 2 PM than watching this one. This might be the rare game where neither team should be favored, and the Linc will not be a packed house. Tulsa has been outscored 146-222, Temple has given up 217 while tallying only 113. The Golden Hurricane is 2-9 ATS coming off a double-digit loss; Temple is **0-9 ATS** as a favorite with rest. The teams combined are 3-6/0-4, and we figure this game will be the most exciting of the day, some three or four-overtime affair, or just as terrible as possible. Either way, we won't be watching to find out, and our best advice to you is to catch up on your reading, phone a friend, cut the lawn or someone else's, or better yet, find a better game to watch. It will be your most straightforward task of the weekend.

Western Michigan over BUFFALO by 6

We finally found a team that was outgained by Akron this season... the Broncos. Yet, WMU pulled out a ten-point victory over the Zippers. Buffalo bullied two of the conference's better teams in Northern Illinois and Toledo (as a 10.5-point underdog) to take a piece of the conference lead at 2-0. Their defense is giving up 13 PPG in its four wins, and it's a good thing that side of the ball is solid because the offense ranks 131st through six games under Pete Lembo, back in the MAC after being fired at Ball State in 2015. All signs point toward Buffalo, but we reached a fork in the road. There's only one thing to do here: utilize Yogi Berra's advice and take it. Western is 12-6 ATS away when coming off a SUATS win, and UB is **0-15 SU and 1-14 ATS** when coming off a win as a dog of seven or more points.

5★ BEST BET

Kentucky over FLORIDA by 10

The Gators had an incredible opportunity to reverse all of the negativity around the program if they had been able to beat Tennessee in Knoxville, but too many first half mistakes on offense caught up with them. Yes, this one may be in the Swamp, but UK has won there before under Mark Stoops and won't likely be intimidated. UF is in the middle of one of the toughest stretches in its history, with Georgia, Texas, and LSU on the horizon. From 1986-2017, the Gators beat Kentucky 31 straight times, but since then, the Wildcats have taken four of the last six thanks to a defense-first mentality that can break an opponent; this year's edition is ranked #4 in the nation at 251.5 ypg. Under Beleaguered Billy Napier, UF is 3-9 outright from Game Six on. Kentucky already smoked Ole Miss despite being a 15-point underdog and battled CFP contender Georgia to the tape before the Bulldogs prevailed. It almost seems unfair to let **THE CLINCHER** out of its cage, but we must tell you **Mark Stoops is 8-3 ATS off an outright loss as a favorite, including 4-0 SUATS against .500 or greater opponents.** We know Big Blue just lost to Vanderbilt, but we also know this is not your fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, great-grandparents, and that guy who lived in your neighborhood you called "Uncle" even though he's not blood-related Vanderbilt team.

Texas State over OLD DOMINION by 7

Those little ole Bobcats from Texas are in a hand fight for the Sun Belt West lead at 2-0, while in the milder East, ODU's 1-1 conference mark has them only a game out of first. We can't help but notice Texas State's upcoming games, which include tilts with the other Best of the West squads, ULM, and Louisiana. The Monarchs may float like a butterfly, but a 10-1 ATS mark as a dog in consecutive games may sting your money clip like a bee if you're not careful. It's probably best to use Muhammad Ali's unique "lean-away" defense and avoid getting punched in the face by this game.

NAVY over Charlotte by 10

Like their military comrades at Army, the Midshipmen are spotless this season – despite surrendering season-high yardage on two occasions to Memphis and UAB. The 5-0 record can be attributed to their best

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start offensively in 144 years of play after bringing in new OC Drew Cronic, formerly the head coach at Mercer. Under Cronic, the naval attack has gone from 125th in the nation in scoring (17.7 PPC) in 2023 to fifth (43.6) this year. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end, and we feel that a look ahead to Notre Dame is foremost on their minds today. Meanwhile, the 3-3 49ers entered the first of two Bye weeks last week riding a two-game winning streak, winning both contests outright as underdogs. They've had two weeks to prepare for the Navy rushing attack, currently No.2 overall in the nation at 296 YPG. That ground game ate them up last year in a 14-0 walkover win by the Middies despite limiting Navy to just 250 total yards, including 173 on the ground. In the end, it was a 3-0 negative turnover result that did them in. The Niners are toting a 10-2 ATS dog log when coming off an underdog role in the previous game, so we'll back the well-rested avengers from Charlotte.

UPSET GAME OF THE WEEK UPSET

TENNESSEE over Alabama by 10

The Tide buckboard has hit an icy patch, going 1-1 SU and 0-2 ATS and 0-2 ITS (In The Stats) in its past two games, but they did survive that with a late-game effort on Saturday to pull out a win at home. They still have not lost back-to-back regular-season contests since Nick Saban's first year in Tuscaloosa in 2007. Bama will be trying to find their groove at Neyland Stadium today, but it looks like the troubles might continue, as the Crimson Tide is 1-4 ATS versus .750 or greater foes coming off back-to-back ATS losses, not to mention a 1-3 ATS mark after playing South Carolina. There are too many troubles to lay out here, but a struggling O-line, some bad tackling, and a plethora of penalties (ranked 94th in total penalties this year) are just a few categories to get that conversation going. Meanwhile, the Vols saved their playoff dreams by coming back in the second half to beat the Gators in overtime. They are 4-0 SUATS after taking on Florida and 4-2 SUATS in their last six games with single revenge. The problem today is that they are on an offensive step ladder "down" in the stats over their last four games: 740 yards against Kent State, then 345, 332, and 312 against Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Florida in the last three contests. In other words, they are melting like a snowman in a sauna. Josh Heupel will look to cool things down: he is 30-6 with an **11-1 SU and 10-2 ATS** mark at home with a greater-than-.800 win percentage when facing foes with a better-than-.400 record. **THE CLINCHER: The Vols appear in this week's AWESOME ANGLE on page 2, plus they are 9-1 SUATS when both teams are coming off an ATS loss, including 9-0 SUATS against .333-or-greater foes.**

Notre Dame over GEORGIA TECH by 14

It's challenging to figure out precisely what Marcus Freeman has in South Bend this season. The Irish have won four straight after that shocking upset by Northern Illinois earlier in the season, with the only real test since then being Louisville (won 31-24). Duke transfer QB Riley Leonard has gotten back on track since a slow start, throwing 6 TDs and completing 68% of his passes in the four wins. The numbers are good for both teams heading into this match-up, with Notre Dame going **13-2 ATS** in their last 15 meetings against ACC foes and **13-2 ATS** when coming off a home-favorite win. Meanwhile, the Ramblin' Wreck is 5-1-1 ATS after playing the Tarheels and 4-1 ATS as home dogs over the last three years. The Irish lost their top defensive player last week, CB Benjamin Morrison, to a hip injury that will require surgery, but the Irish cannot afford another slip-up if they wish to make this season's College Football Playoff. They won't do it here at the Mercedes-Benz Dome.

COASTAL CAROLINA over Louisiana by 1

There was a great deal of anticipation as two 4-1 Sun Belt teams got together in Harrisonburg last Thursday night in a nationally televised game, but James Madison ended the excitement early by jumping out to a 29-7 halftime lead and destroying the Chanticleers, 39-7. Before they quickly squander that excellent start, CCU must turn it around at home today against another team at 5-1. Apparently, the Chants go as their QB Ethan Vasko goes. After throwing for 367 yards against Old Dominion two weeks ago, the sophomore QB went just 5-of-18 and 85 yards against James Madison with two interceptions. Meanwhile, the Ragin' Cajuns have received solid QB play from senior Ben Woolridge, who will not light up the stats page but will take care of the football. The Louisiana defense has been the strength of this team, ranked 22nd in the nation. However, Louisiana is just **1-11 ATS** when coming off a win and **1-6 ATS** as a road favorite coming off a double-digit win. A possible bigger look ahead to Texas State on deck may prove a distraction here. On the flip side, Coastal is 5-2 SUATS in their last seven as home dogs, and while Cajuns have the better stats, the Cleers have the bigger need.

EASTERN MICHIGAN over Central Michigan by 6

The 4-2 EMUs had a three-game win skein snapped by Miami of Ohio in a 24-point home loss here last week when they allowed the RedHawks to score 17 unanswered points and pull away in the fourth quarter. However, Chris Creighton is 19-10-1 ATS when coming off one loss-exact, including **6-1-1 ATS** in their last eight conference home games. Meanwhile, the 3-3 Chippewas bring a lousy **1-12-1 ATS** ledger into the fray in games where they were a favorite, and the opponent was a dog in the previous game. More importantly, CMU has surrendered season-high yardage in two of their last three games and hasn't been on the road in over a month. We lean in the direction of the Eagles to protect their nest today.

CLEMSON over Virginia by 16

The visitor has covered the number in the last four meetings of this series, and the Wahoos bring some great 'before and afters' into this contest: 4-0 after playing Louisville and 5-1 before taking on North Carolina. Virginia almost upset Louisville last week but allowed a late drive engineered by Cards' QB Tyler Shough to result in the game-winning touchdown. On the bright side, the Cavaliers are 7-0 ATS in their last seven games as double-digit conference road dogs and are 6-0 ATS in Game 7. Meanwhile, the Tigers have ripped off five straight wins after laying a 34-3 egg against Georgia in the season opener and absolutely coasted to a 49-14 win over Wake Forest on the road last week. QB Cade Klubnik has improved dramatically since a struggling 2023 campaign and threw for 309 yards and 3 TDs against the Demon Deacons. However, Clemson is 1-6 ATS as a home favorite and 4-1 ATS as a conference home favorite of more than 10 points, but they have a much bigger game on deck with Louisville, so we will keep this one at arm's length.

Arizona State over CINCINNATI by 4

The Bearcats, who were picked to finish near the bottom of the Big 12, are a pleasant surprise at 4-2 (losses by just 3 and 1-point margins), thanks in large part to Indiana transfer QB Brendan Sorsby, who sits third in the Big 12 in passing yards and fourth in passing efficiency, with 13 touchdowns against just three interceptions. They beat UCF on Saturday 19-13, but the win was of the 'inside-out' variety, with the Knights winning the battle of the stats,

(continued on next page)

393-338. Add to that a **2-13 ATS** record off a conference game versus a foe coming off a conference contest and a **2-9-1 ATS** mark in their last dozen home games, and we will look for another upset from the sky-high Sun Devils, who rode RB Cam Skattebo to a 4th-quarter comeback against Utah. ASU is now just a game back of the top spot in the 16-team Big 12 and owns four outright underdog wins in two-plus seasons under Kenny Dillingham. They are always capable, and a live dog today.

Kansas State over WEST VIRGINIA by 7

Despite looking rather spiffy in their black "Coal Rush" uniforms, the Mountaineers were stuffed by 11th-ranked Iowa State, 28-16, on Saturday. After the game, head coach Neal Brown riled up his complaining WVU fans by saying, "I'm assuming they had a pretty good time tailgating." Now they match up with the Wildcats, who bombed them in the past two meetings by 17 points in each contest. The Mountain Men are also 0-3-1 ATS in the second of back-to-back conference home games and 1-3 ATS in the last four games with double revenge. One pause for concern is that the 'Billies are a Homecoming dog, and they tend to back down more than they don't. Meanwhile, the Wildcats are 5-1 SU and ITS (In The Stats) and currently **9-0-1 ATS** before playing Kansas. They are also **13-2 ATS** in Game 7, 11-3 ATS versus double revenge, and 8-2 ATS in the second of consecutive road games. Chris Klieman lost his QB for a short time in last week's 31-28 win over Colorado, but Avery Johnson returned to throw the game-winning TD pass in the final three minutes for the victory. The bottom line today is that there are simply too many overwhelming numbers like these to look any other way.

MEMPHIS over North Texas by 6

The 5-1 / 2-0 Green are one of six FBS teams averaging more than 500 yards per game, which can be directly attributed to TCU transfer QB Chandler Morris, who leads the nation with 20 TD passes (tied with Cam Ward of Miami). This 5-1 start is the best for the program in Denton since 1967, and the Mean Green are **10-1 ATS** when coming off a conference road game. They have lost the last two games in this series but covered both meetings. Meanwhile, the Tigers are also 5-1 SU but are 1-6 ATS as a favorite if they were also laying points in their previous game, and even worse, just 1-9 ATS overall if coming off an SUATS victory. QB Seth Henigan is in the midst of his third excellent season, but this is an extremely important game for the Tigers in the AAC race, and we are not keen on laying double-digits to a team with an identical record.

TEXAS TECH over Baylor by 1

Baylor enters this fray with a **17-2 ATS** record as conference dog of four or more points versus foes coming off a SUATS win, including 13-1 ATS when the Bears are seeking revenge. Baylor is on a 0-3 SUATS skid and in danger of matching last season's 3-win effort. Their 2-4 / 0-3 record puts them in a tie for last place in the Big 12. It's win or get out time for Dave Aranda. However, before we get too excited about TTRR, we'll remind you that the host of this series is **0-6-1 ATS**. The 5-1 / 3-0 Raiders are tied atop the Big 12, but we don't like that they upset Arizona last week as a six-point dog despite being outgained. The Red Raiders are riding a 4-0 SU but 0-3 ITS (In The Stats) streak, which leaves them "leaking oil" and you know how much we hate seeing that wet spot on the driveway.

BOWLING GREEN over Kent State by 24

The **MIDWEEK ALERT** sent out an **Amber Alert** on Sunday: only one FBS team this season is losing the stats by 200 or more yards per game, and that team is Kent State. In fact, the Flashes are **-340 net yards** per game on the season. The biggest surprise is that they actually outgained Ball State in last Saturday's 37-35 loss. Here's a flash: Kent State's **0-7-1 ATS** record as road dogs means we will avoid the bright lights... and the betting window. Especially since the Falcons are **12-2 ATS** in Game Seven, along with a 12-6 ATS mark as double-digit conference chalk, but before we get too excited about the BeeGees, you need to realize that they managed just 205 yards against Northern Illinois, and shouldn't be laying three touchdowns to anyone, not even a high school team.

OKLAHOMA over South Carolina by 1

We doubt seriously if the Sooners have ever been an 11th-place team in any football conference, yet they are precisely that today following a 34-3 loss to Texas last week, their worst defeat in the series since 2005. However, things might be looking up when you view their 4-1



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SUATS record following a loss of 16 points or more to Texas, along with a **14-2 ATS** mark when coming off an outright loss as a dog. With Brent Venables feeling the heat, a big Boomer bounce-back is expected by many, but to be honest, the Gamecocks are not the team Oklahoma needs to take on today. On the flip side, South Carolina is **10-2 ATS** off a SU loss, but ATS win when taking on a foe off a SUATS loss. An excellent defense has held four of their last five foes to season-low yards, including Alabama in last week's 27-25 loss. Beamer's boys look to be a tough out for any team in their path this season.

TOLEDO over Northern Illinois by 6

The Huskies are one of thirteen teams that remain with a perfect ITS (In The Stats) record, winning the stats by an average of 163 net yards per game. Unfortunately, they are also 1-10 ATS in the last 11 games as a favorite. This is a big game to help decide MAC supremacy, as both squads have a conference loss despite being 4-2 overall. Finally, include with that a 14-1 SUATS mark if they were favored by fewer than 13 points in their last game... we smell an upset.

SOUTH FLORIDA over Uab by 14

How do we hate thee? Let me count the ways... UAB is 2-10 ATS in Game Seven road contests. That's enough for now. It's safe to say we are Blazer bashers and will remain so as long as Trent Dilfer continues to roam the sidelines in Birmingham. On the flip side, USF is **9-1 ATS** coming off a home loss, but we also note that the 2-4 Bulls are riding a three-game losing skein and are down from last year's 7-win bowl squad. We look at how they hung tough against both Alabama and Miami in the first half of those games, and we see some good things happening under Alex Golesh in Tampa. We also realize they are 0-5 ATS as home chalk of seven or more points, and this is a dreaded Homecoming affair, but there is no way we're remotely interested in UAB.

Rutgers over UCLA by 3

The struggling Bruins may actually be on the come after holding Minnesota to a season-low 234 yards in last week's 21-17 loss, and they now ride a 3-1 ATS mark in their last four games. At 1-5 SU this season, this contest is "must-win" material should they look to continue their three-year bowl-eligible streak. Meanwhile, after a hot 4-0 start, the Scarlet Knights have made a dangerous U-turn in Piscataway, losing consecutive games and managing just 14 points combined. Head coach Greg Schiano will need to turn things around quickly, or the great start will be squandered. Minnesota transfer QB Athan Kaliakmanis has been a big part of the problem – focusing on him might be the place to start for Schiano.

Usc over MARYLAND by 3

The move to the BIG Ten seemed like such an excellent idea for USC this summer – now they head into the last part of October with a 1-3 conference mark. On top of that, the wobbly Trojans are just **2-15 ATS** against conference foes coming off consecutive losses. Overall, Lincoln Riley is just 11-19 ATS away in conference games, including 5-19 ATS as a favorite of four or more points. Now, the Southern Cal head coach might be happy just to get out of Crabtown alive. Meanwhile, Maryland is in a two-game losing slump, bringing the 3-3 Terps back to 'level.' A negative 4-0 turnover margin did them in as a double-digit home favorite here last week against Northwestern, a game in which the Turtles won the stats, 355-286. There is no question that the Terps have plenty of good players, like QB Billy Edwards and WR Tai Felton. In fact, Felton leads the BIG Ten with 715 yards receiving and 55 catches – he has also scored five touchdowns in Maryland's six games. A **7-4 SU record and 9-1 ATS mark** at home when coming off a SU favorite loss seals the selection for us today.

4★ BEST BET

ILLINOIS over Michigan by 10

There is a big upset pick here: the defending National Champions are 17-24-1 ATS as road favorites versus .833 or greater opponents. Add to that an 0-3 spread record coming off a double-digit SU loss and a 3-8-1 ATS mark with rest, and we start to have the makings of a solid case for the Fightin' Illini, who have covered the last three meetings in this series. The Illini are also 3-1 versus conference opponents with rest, **9-2 ATS** coming off a conference home game, and 8-3-1 ATS at home versus .666 or greater opponents, including 3-0 ATS with a winning record. We are not all that attracted to the quarterbacks that are replacing the departed J.J. McCarthy this season, but we seal the deal with **THE CLINCHER: See Marc's AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK on page 2.**

Wisconsin over NORTHWESTERN by 11

The Badgers' 302-YPG defense keeps them in almost every contest, but they have put up 94 points in the last two games to coast past BIG Ten rivals Purdue and Rutgers. They dropped a 24-10 decision at home as 14-point chalk to the Wildcats last season, so that should ensure a total effort here today. Meanwhile, the 3-3 Wildcats upended the Terps at Maryland last week yet are still one of fourteen FBS teams that average fewer than 300 yards per contest. It's never good news when you are in the company of the likes of Kennesaw State, Kent State, and New Mexico State. As mentioned earlier, Maryland outgained Northwestern (355-283) but took advantage of four Terrapin turnovers to win 37-10. The Badgers stay on a roll.

UTAH STATE over New Mexico by 3

The Aggies run the ball at a 5.1 YPR clip, which makes this a **MIDWEEK ALERT** contender play. Unfortunately, they don't play much defense, allowing 493.7 YPG and ranking 130th in Total Defense. On the flip side, New Mexico is 2-9 ATS as a favorite and is **1-7 ATS** when both teams are coming off an ATS win. We're unsure what the Lobos have done to warrant road favorite status. Not with a defense that allows 6.2 Yards Per Rush and is ranked one spot ahead of the Aggies in Total D. The two teams are also neck-and-neck in Scoring Defense, both allowing over 42 PPG. So, this game is for you if you are a fan of track meets (and photo finishes).

UTAH over Tcu by 13

The Horned Frogs are 1-4 ATS when coming off a double-digit home loss, and they are also another team that cannot crack the Top 100 in Scoring Defense. They are also 1-4 ATS as dogs of more than 8 points, 3-8 ATS in their last 11 games with rest, and 2-9 ATS when both teams are coming off a SUATS loss. Meanwhile, the Utes continue to be vexed by the near-constant injury status of Cam Rising, who may finally find his college career coming to an end. They are 4-1 ATS after playing Arizona State, 3-1-1 after a Weekday game, and 6-2 as a home favorite of less than 8 points. The Utes will be anxious to take their frustration out on the Frogs today as they enter off a pair of losses, games that were ITS (In The Stats) wins. The good news is that the numbers are all in their favor today.

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

Colorado State over AIR FORCE by 3

As we noted last week, it is hard to believe how far the Falcons have fallen this season. Last year's No. 1 overall ranked defense checks in at No. 74 here, with the Flyboys losing the stats an average of 107 net yards per game. But they are 7-4 SU and 7-3-1 ATS as home dogs of late, including 6-1 ATS as a single-digit home dog. Still, that crushing 34-7 loss to the Naval Academy two weeks ago was truly embarrassing – will that still be a motivating factor today? These guys are too tough to give up so easily. Meanwhile, the 3-3 Rams have lost seven straight times in this series and have been the dog each of the last five games in this series (double-digit dog four times), so Jay Norvell will really be trying to flip the script tonight.

SAN JOSE STATE over Wyoming by 4

Sitting at 4-2 under new head coach Ken Niumatalolo, San Jose State looks to be well on its way to dressing up like Don Carter and going bowling for a third straight year. Not so for Wyoming. Blasted in its first four games of the season (well, the Cowboys did hang with Idaho, losing 17-13), UW rebounded to beat Air Force, then had San Diego State on the ropes last week in a season-defining contest – only to take one in the kisser in the final quarter, choking away a 24-17 lead to lose 2-24. And while you're right to think that things in Laramie aren't so good right now, here's something straight out of Ripley's "Believe It Or Not": The 1-5 Cowboys are only ONE game out of the top spot in the MWC! While that's not a ringing endorsement of the soon-to-be-splintered Mountain West, it does mean Wyoming can still be a player in the conference race – and will pull out all the stops here. The Cowboys have struggled mightily in this series of late, going 0-5 ATS the last five tries, but they are 9-2 ATS when coming off a SU favorite loss. That fits like a pair of Isotoners with the Spartans' miserable **2-10-1 ATS** failure as double-digit home chalk. And despite the strong start of SJSU, the defense has allowed season-high yards in two of their last three games. We feel that the current line of SJ -11.5 is a large number to lay into a Wyoming team that might have finally turned the corner with stat wins in each of their last two outings. To paraphrase attorney Glenn Kirschner, "Yardage matters".

ARIZONA over Colorado by 10

If anyone would like to volunteer, we really want to know what goes in the Colorado locker room when Deion is coaching. Considering his approach to assembling a team after arriving in Boulder was pretty extreme, we don't know if Coach Prime delivers legendary pep talks or stands back while wearing his trademark sunglasses and hoodie while the assistant coaches handle the details. Regardless, he's off to a 4-2 start after last season's 4-8 finish and came within a field goal of toppling mighty Kansas State last week. We expected more out of Arizona this season than its lethargic 3-3 start, especially that 41-19 humiliation suffered at BYU last week, but we think the time has come for new head coach Brent Brennan to light a fire under his Wildcats. Yes, the Buffaloes have notched four ATS wins in a row, but they've lost the stat battle in their last two outings. We quizzed the Well-Oiled Machine for some meaningful info on this Big 12 clash, and it was strangely silent except for Colorado's **2-11 ATS** mark off a SU home dog loss and its **2-12 ATS** mark in playing Game Seven away. Zona is just 1-3 SUATS and ITS (In The Stats) in the last four games but still +66 net yards per game in the stats this season. The feeling here is the Buffs are about to go roaming out of contention in the race for the conference title.

CALIFORNIA over NC State by 14

Gather around and listen to the saga of Grayson McCall. McCall took over the QB job at Coastal Carolina in 2019, and the Chanticleers finished 5-7. Over the next four seasons, McCall amassed a record of 39-12 and finished his career at CCU with over 10,000 yards passing, 1,113 yards rushing, 88 touchdowns, and only 14 picks. With NC State's offensive weaponry in 2023 deemed as the worst in recent memory, it was no surprise to see head coach Dave Doeren convince McCall to join the Wolfpack for his final year of eligibility. Since taking over as starting quarterback, though, McCall has resembled a human pinata, missing games against Clemson and Northern Illinois due to a concussion. Then, after returning two weeks ago to take on Wake Forest, he took a vicious shot to the head and left the game in the first quarter. Though he has been released from the hospital "alert and in good spirits," we'd be shocked if he joined the team for their 5,600-mile round-trip flight to Berkeley. Cal's 3-3 start since joining the ACC is somewhat misleading, considering they lost their last three games by margins of just 2, 1, and 5 points. The Bears are also **10-1 ATS** off a road
(continued on next page)

game versus a foe off a home game, while the Pack has yet to cash a ticket this season, going **0-6-1 ATS** overall. California looks like the best .500 squad in the land, so we can sum this clash up by saying: no McCall, no go.

Smu over STANFORD by 16

Before long, this pair of newbies will not need to be reminded that they are actually members of the the newly expanded ACC. However, they're still trying to establish their place in the conference pecking order. Stanford's debut has been less than successful at 2-4, and the Cardinal is currently reeling from a three-game losing skein, outscored in their last contests against Virginia Tech and Notre Dame by 80-14. Ugh. Meanwhile, the 5-1 Mustangs are currently one of four teams in the conference with a spotless record in league play. A trip to the ATS archives confirms we could be looking at another mismatch tonight. SMU stands **9-2 ATS** when coming off a SU dog win and **9-2 ATS** off a win versus a foe off a loss. Those numbers look like solid gold compared to Stanford's **1-14 ATS** record when coming off a road loss and the **2-13 ATS** mark when coming off an ATS loss versus a foe coming off an ATS win. We don't like laying doubles on the road (the line has moved to SMU -16), but the Ponies have way too much firepower to be contained by head coach Troy Taylor's defense. As Paul Simon once sang, it could be time to "Make a new plan, Stan".

VANDERBILT over Ball State by 24

Right now, Vandy is in a dead heat with Indiana for the feel-good story of the year in college football. But while the Hoosiers have a tough row to hoe today against Big Ten foe Nebraska, Vanderbilt's adversary almost guarantees a Commodore Crush. It's about time to start taking the Music City men seriously, especially after bagging their third game outright as a double-digit underdog this season when they took down Kentucky, 20-13, in Lexington as a 12.5-point puppy. Their reward is to lay a barrel full of points, knowing they are just 5-11 ATS as -14-point or larger favorites, including 0-5 ATS in the last five games. Folks, you know that before we would ever lay this many points with a favorite, we'd have to be dragged in front of a firing squad... and even then, we might request a final cigar. In other words, we're going to convince you not to take Ball State here. Exhibit A: The Cardinals were actually outgained by the worst team in the FBS, Kent State, in last week's two-point victory, making them 0-5 ITS (In The Stats) against fellow FBS competition this season – by an average losing stat margin of -225 net yards per game. Holy Moly. The pride of Muncie is also a barely-breathing **1-10 ATS** in their last eleven non-MAC matchups (Exhibit B), and they're pure poison in today's role, with eighteen consecutive SU losses and a 4-14 ATS mark as a dog of twenty-plus points (Exhibit C). If we've made you feel that you no longer want a piece of the Gonads this week, who would? – you can save your conscience by convincing yourself you're simply backing a Vanderbilt team that's one game out of the SEC conference lead, who needs this win and one other to go bowling for the holidays, and one that is **10-0** against MAC opposition, by an average win margin of over 20 points per game. All of these should be enough to keep Ball State off your ticket tonight.

KANSAS over Houston by 8

Don't look now but guess who's holding down the cellar in the Big 12 this season? None other than the Jayhawks picked to finish 4th in the league in the conference preseason media poll. Yes, the state of bliss that enveloped Kansas fans at the start of the campaign did not last long. Following a 48-3 blowout of FCS opponent Lindenwood to kick off the season, the Jayhawks have slid into a death spiral, going 0-5 SUATS against the five FBS foes they've faced. As bad as it sounds, though, Kansas lost those games by an average of just 5.6 PPG and still has an "opportunity" to go on a season-ending run to become bowl-eligible. Today's game against Houston is an absolute must-win for head coach Lance Leipold since KU's next three contests on deck are against ranked teams: Kansas State, Iowa State, and BYU. This afternoon's contest doesn't look to be a gimme, either, after the 2-4 / 1-2 Cougars came alive with a monster 30-19 upset win at TCU last week in a 30-19 as 16.5-point underdogs. In the process, Houston held the Frogs to a season-low 299 total yards, marking the third time they've accomplished a similar feat this campaign. With it, Houie sports the nation's 40th-ranked overall defense, allowing 335 YPG, some 79 YPG better than last year's unit. However, we can temper any enthusiasm for the Cougars by exposing their ugly **2-13 ATS** record when coming off a double-digit ATS win. But all we can find to recommend the Jayhawks in a 3-2 SUATS record in games with rest under Leipold. We'll probably watch this one from afar.

ARKANSAS over Lsu by 6

Can Arkansas shock the world again tonight with another SU home dog upset of a ranked team? You betcha. This has been one of the most closely contested series in recent memory, as the last four rumbles between this SEC version of the Jets and Sharks were decided by the exact same margin, a mere three points. We're not fans of supporting road favorites like LSU who notched an overtime win last week, not when the Hogs have gone 4-1-1 ATS in the most recent six clashes with the Tigers. The Razorbacks also claim the full and unwavering support of The Well-Oiled Machine, which points out that Arkansas is **7-1 ATS** in the last eight overall games as a dog, **6-1 ATS** home when playing with double revenge, and **5-1 ATS** with rest. That's enough to get a "Woo, Pig, Soovie" out of anyone, especially when we see head coach Sam Pittman stands 21-8 ATS as a dog, including 10-2 ATS if the Razorbacks were a dog of six or more points in their last game. The Tigers show up barefoot by comparison, going just **1-7 ATS** away versus double revenge and 1-3 ATS in the first of consecutive road games. Coach Brian Kelly is not appearing in one of his best roles either, going 2-5 ATS as an SEC road favorite, including **0-4 ATS** versus foes with at least one loss on the season. Color the Hogs a healthy Homecoming dog.

Georgia over TEXAS by 3

We've been treated to several "Game of the Year" matchups so far in 2024, but this looks like the 24-karat real deal. In the red corner, the school that had won 42 consecutive regular season games before falling to Alabama three weeks ago, Kirby Smart's Georgia Bulldogs. In the burnt orange corner, the school that beat Alabama at Tuscaloosa last season and made it to the CFB Playoff semifinals, Steve Sarkisian's Texas Longhorns. There seems to be a must-see game taking place each and every week in the well-muscle SEC, and as much as the Alabama-Tennessee collision matters today, THIS is the 'primetime' match-up of the week. The Longhorns' 34-3 win over the Sooners last week looked good on the scoreboard as QB Quinn Ewers needed time to shake off the rust of a slow start. And after all the season numbers were crunched, No. 1 Texas owns the nation's overall top-ranked defense (229.7) while also fielding the No. 7 overall offense at 495.7 YPG. This may be Georgia's first visit to Austin since 1958 but don't go to sleep on these Bulldogs. Smart boasts a 15-5 SU and 12-8 ATS versus undefeated foes, including **9-1 SU** and **8-2 ATS** against foes who scored fewer than 40 points in their game, as well as a 6-2 ATS mark in the Dawgs' last eight games as an underdog, including **3-0 ATS** as a dog of fewer than five points. The ATS archives are not so kind to the hosts, though, as Texas is **0-5 ATS** after Oklahoma, **1-5-1 ATS** as home chalk of seven or fewer points, and 3-6-1 ATS in their last ten showdowns with .750 or greater conference opponents. In addition, Georgia checks the box as a call from Marc's "**Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me**" **BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW** system. Our SEC scout, Jaybird The Bulldog, is adamant that the old-school conference teams need to cut the newbies down to size, and this would be a great spot to start. All things considered, the bottom line is that Texas is the No. 1 team in the land, coming off a rout against their main rival, and all they have to do this week is beat the Bulldogs. Good luck with that!

TULANE over Rice by 25

The Green Wave and new head coach Jon Sumrall went through some growing pains early on this season, losing 34-27 to Kansas State and 34-19 Oklahoma, but have roared back with a vengeance, blowing out three straight opponents while lighting up the big board for over 52 points per game. Meanwhile, Rice earned only its second win of the year last week when the Owls outlasted the Roadrunners of UTSA, 29-27, but failed to win the yardage battle. While Rice did nearly upset the Wave as a double-digit home dog last season in a hard-fought 30-28 loss, all that did was assure Tulane's complete focus this afternoon in Yulman Stadium. The tale of the tape informs us that Rice is a money-burning 2-9 ATS in games when both teams are coming off a SUATS win, while the Greenies are a perfect **8-0 SUATS** with rest when coming off consecutive wins since 2000. With Sumrall's team firing on all cylinders, we're not stepping in front of that... and neither should you.

Texas A&M over MISSISSIPPI STATE by 13

Aggies appear to have Uncle Mo on their side big time, riding a sizzling 5-game win streak under their "why didn't we hire him sooner?" head coach Mike Elko (who is probably paid a lot less than what Jimbo Fisher negotiated before agreeing to be exiled). But a hot streak does not guarantee success as a road favorite, and Texas A&M has cashed in only one of its last five tries as road chalk. Also, don't look for the Aggies' bye week to factor as a big advantage over Mississippi State this afternoon. Talk

about a team nodding off at the flip of a switch; well-rested A&M brings a sleepy **3-18 ATS** record with rest into today's fray. While the Bulldogs have gone 4-1 ATS in their last five meetings with the Aggies in Starkville, the rest of their numbers are downright ugly. Ready? Hail State is an embarrassing **0-8 ATS** as a home dog of 7 or more points, **1-10 ATS** after facing Georgia, and **2-15 ATS** off a road game versus a foe off a home game. That's so bad we won't even mention that the Bulldogs' defense has allowed season-high yardage in three of their last four games. So while there is plenty of ammo on both sides of the ball, it's all 'play against' material – which means we'll be sitting this one out.

UTSA over Florida Atlantic by 3

When it comes to UTSA football this season, the Roadrunners appear to have run out of gas, going 2-4 SU and 0-5 ATS overall. Jeez, how can you go from a team with the sharpest helmets in the FBS and four straight winning seasons (39-14) to a team that's stumbling through the dark like Raymond Burr at the end of "Rear Window"? By losing to every team on your schedule besides Kennesaw State and Houston Christian, that's how. The Roadrunners lost as chalk at Rice last week, and they're a miserable **2-11 ATS** coming off a SUATS favorite loss. The Rice game also marked UTSA's second consecutive game away from San Antonio, and the 'Runners are just **2-10 ATS** at home when coming off two straight road games. If only we could offer support for the other side, but we can't. The 2-4 / 0-2 Owls are going nowhere fast, with their two victories coming against Wagner and Florida International. FAU is saddled with some lousy numbers today, as well, going **2-10 ATS** off a SU loss when playing an opponent off an ATS win and 11-20 ATS as a dog versus foes that won nine or more games the previous season. We don't like taking another seat on the sidelines here, but the truth is we can't back either team in their current condition.

MISSOURI over Auburn by 3

It is hard to believe the once-proud Auburn program has not had a winning season since 2020, and with a current record of 2-4, the Tigers look to be going nowhere in 2024. This much we do know: The folks who scraped together the money to oust Bryan Harsin and bring in Hugh Freeze as head coach expected a lot more than six wins last season and two wins over lightweights Alabama A&M and New Mexico this year. No. 19 Missouri rebounded from having its unbeaten bubble burst in a savage 41-10 beating at Texas A&M two weeks ago by dismantling UMass last Saturday, 45-3. But really... who hasn't dismantled the Minutemen since they moved up to the FBS? That dose of reality, plus the fact that the COMO Tigers have Alabama up next, is probably why the money has come in on Auburn, dropping the line from Mizzou -6.5 to -4.5. It seems like for every good number we can find for either side, two bad ones show up. Auburn may be 6-3-1 ATS when rested, but War Eagle is also 2-4 ATS as conference dogs of 10 or fewer points and 3-7 ATS before taking on Kentucky. Missouri owns a strong 7-3 ATS record of late when playing with SEC revenge, but the Tigers are a putrid 0-9 ATS when playing a rested foe and 2-10 ATS off a SUATS win versus a foe off a SUATS loss. Pick your poison.

WASHINGTON STATE over Hawaii by 15

Will Hawaii find a place in the new Pac-12? Let's face it – you don't get any more "Pacific" than the Hawaiian Islands! And how about Washington State? Do two solid wins on their ledger over Texas Tech and the rival Washington Huskies – and only one loss to big, bad Boise State – mean the Cougars should get an offer from the 'Bigs' (10 & 12) next year? Probably not. All speculation aside, the 2-4 Warriors are on course to match last season's 4-8 effort, plus they have shown dramatic improvement in the stats this season with the numbers up on both sides of the ball, including a 78 YPG improvement on defense. Wazzu does own a super 8-1 ATS record at Pullman off back-to-back road games, but the Cougars are just 4-11 ATS when .500 or more and facing Mountain West opponents. This is Hawaii's time of the season, too, as the Warriors are a convincing **5-1 ATS** as a dog of more than 10 points coming off a loss during the season's final six games. Breaking this down to a molecular level, we have a sub-300-yard defense, taking almost 20 points from a team with a 444-yard defense. That's what we call a no-brainer.

Unlv over OREGON STATE by 3

These two haven't slugged it out on the gridiron since 2009, but they'll get a lot more familiar starting next season in the resurrected Pac-12 conference. If UNLV's 9-5 finish last year under then first-year head coach Barry Odom was a shock to your system, check out the Rebels in 2024: 5-1

SU, with their only loss coming by 3 points against Syracuse in overtime. The **MIDWEEK ALERT** calls out that the Rebs rush the ball 6.0 Yards Per Rush, which melds into the Beavers' bad 6.6 Yards Per Rush defense. However, despite their **8-1 ATS** success in their last nine road games, the boys from Vegas are by no means invincible: they beat Utah State, 50-34, last week but allowed a whopping 584 yards (a 0-4 turnover edge did the trick). In fact, if it weren't for the statistical mismatch outlined above, we'd make a good case for an Oregon State team that lost its last game, 42-27 as three-point chalk to Nevada, even though they outyarded the Wolf Pack 562-422. That and the Beavers' 20-3 outright record in its last twenty-three home games is more than enough to suggest this one will be closer than most think.

Iowa over MICHIGAN STATE by 8

Let's be honest here. If Brian Ferentz were still calling offensive plays for the Hawkeyes, we'd be all over Michigan State in this situation. But since "Mr. 15 points per game" was replaced by Tim Lester as OC, we can't play so loose and free with Iowa these days. After a surprising 3-0 start, the Spartans crashed and burned in their last three games, though we can imagine a lot of teams in the country that would emerge without a win versus three straight versus Boston College, Ohio State, and Oregon. In case you were wondering, 3-3 teams, off three straight losses, are 31-17-1 ATS at home in Game Sevens, including 24-7-1 ATS since 2004. These are decent numbers, but they pale in comparison to Iowa's **10-2 ATS** effort off a favorite win versus a foe off an underdog loss and their **9-2 ATS** mark off a home favorite win. We know that new Michigan State head coach Jonathan Smith will get this program turned around sooner rather than later, but under the lights in East Lansing here, it's the Hawkeyes' steady 316 YPG defense that keeps us away from taking a shot with Sparty here.

Arkansas State over SOUTHERN MISS by 4

While this contest did not win the coveted title of our ESPN-Minus Game Of The Week, the finish was decided by a razor-thin margin. The **MIDWEEK ALERT** reports the Red Wolves started the season 2-0 but have dropped three of their last four games, going 0-4 ITS (In The Stats) in the last four by an average stat loss margin of -178 net yards per contest. Typically, we'd be looking to sell them on eBay, but the problem is it's also where Southern Miss resides these days. Still, as bad as the Eagles are, you won't find us laying a touchdown on the road with a team of Arkansas State's caliber, especially one who is 3-10 ATS laying points of late, including **0-4 ATS** away. Even so, considering a play on woeful 1-5 Southern Miss would be like trading in a rattlesnake for a cobra. The not-so-golden Eagles are a sobering **2-9 ATS** when both teams are coming off an ATS loss, and **0-5 SU and ITS** versus FBS opposition this season by an average losing stat margin of -171.5 yards per game. Sheesh! Good luck taking these numbers to the bank without some significant collateral. Like Geena Davis said in David Cronenberg's remake of The Fly, "Be afraid. Be very afraid".

INDIANA over Nebraska by 11

Okay, how many of you would've risked the remains of a day-old pizza before the season began on this matchup making the slightest blip on the radar of importance? We hope you like pepperoni. There's a reason why they're calling the No. 18 team in the nation, the 6-0 Hoosiers, "Windiana" these days. They are one of only 13 teams in the FBS to remain unbeaten in the stat wars at 6-0, winning the stats by an average of +259 net yards per game behind the nation's No. 1 overall ranked team in scoring. Indiana became the first school to become bowl eligible this season, and a win here would ensure the Hoosiers' first 7-win campaign since 2007 – and tie their 8-win mark in 2019. Yes, we know Indy's six wins came over teams who enter this week with a combined record of 9-27, but let's not quibble with the success of new head coach Curt Cignetti, who looks like a lock to win 2024's Coach of the Year award. As impressed as we are with Nebraska's progress under Mr. Turnaround, Matt Rhule, we're not overly excited about the Huskers' **0-3 ATS** record before tangling with Ohio State or their 2-6 ATS mark when playing with rest. Not when we can unveil some robust numbers in favor of Indiana like these: **7-0 ATS** off a double-digit conference road win, **5-1 ATS** in the first of back-to-back home games, **12-2 ATS** off a SUATS win, **11-2 ATS** off a double-digit win... we could go on, but you get the picture. Did you see how wild and celebratory the crowds were last week when SpaceX's Starship rocket ship successfully returned its "Super Heavy" booster to the arms of the launch tower for the first time? Then you know what to expect in Bloomington if Indiana improves to 7-0 with a high-noon win here.

PRO FOOTBALL

Thursday, October 17

NEW ORLEANS over Denver by 3

After a 2-0 start, the Saints have lost four in a row, allowing season-high yardage in three of the games. So why on God's green earth are we circling back with them tonight? For openers, the line swing from New Orleans -1.5 to Denver -2.5 is excessive. Yes, the Saints were crushed here, 51-27, by Tampa Bay last week. It was the debut of one-time college phenom QB Spencer Rattler, who was 22-for-40 for 243 yards and a TD. It's not good, but it's better than Anthony Richardson's 60.2 QB Rating. But it's the Well-Oiled Machine that comes calling in the Saints' favor as it notes that 2-4 NFL teams riding a 4-game losing skid into Game Seven are **5-0 ATS** when coming off consecutive ATS losses and facing a .400 or great opponent. And it doesn't hurt knowing that NFL dogs coming off back-to-back losses are **6-0 ATS** if they allowed 50 or more points in the last game, while New Orleans is a perfect **3-0 ATS** in games after coughing up a 50-spot. Yes, the Broncos hold all the defensive chips in this contest. It's New Orleans, though, where Sean Payton's return to N'Awlins as the Prodigal Son is the talking point. But the **MIDWEEK ALERT** tells us that the Broncos are "leaking oil" (lost the stats in each of their last three games), and Denver's **1-8 ATS** road record in games with an Over/Under total of fewer than 40 points and its **0-3 SUATS** mark in its last three games on Thursdays leaves us marching with the Saints tonight against the offensively challenged Broncos.

Sunday, October 20

Jacksonville over New England by 4

It must be London if a touchdown favors the 1-5 Jaguars today. Or their opponent is New England. How else do you explain installing a team with a 1-6 ATS mark in its last seven games as chalk, losing five times outright? We understand a lovefest happens when Jacksonville is playing at their other home in England, but they are just 6-6 SUATS in Europe, including 1-3 SUATS when favored. And speaking of history, New England is 12-2 SU all-time in this series. We get that the Pats grade out as the worst team in the league in net stat yardage per game this season (-102). But they are also **8-2 SU** and **9-1 ATS** in games after allowing 35 or more points. With Jack owning a propensity for playing down to the level of opposition - 5-15 SU and 7-13 ATS versus .250 or fewer foes - we'll give our research department a "pat" on the back for its contributions in this game.

ATLANTA over Seattle by 8

Somehow, the 3-3 Seahawks rank dead last in the league in Rush Attempts Per Game, a vital stat in the NFL. And that's in a year when the league's rushing game numbers have surpassed the passing game. That likely explains Seattle's 3-0 smooth start and its 0-3 tire blowout in the last three games. The Well-Oiled Machine informs us that teams in this identical scenario - a 3-0 start; 0-3 next three games - are 7-12 ATS dating back to 1980, including **1-7 SUATS** in games when not favored by three or more points. Enter the Dirty Birds, currently riding a three-game win skid but just **1-6 ATS** in their last seven games as non-division home favorites. So where do we turn, you ask? To the hotter team, of course, the one that is **6-1 ATS** in this series when coming off a win. And that's the feed on this bird bowl.

BUFFALO over Tennessee by 3

Titans bring the league's No. 1 ranked defense into the game, having limited four of its five opponents to season-low yards. On the other side of the playing field, the bumbling Bills are a mess, and they only hope that the acquisition of WR Amari Cooper will help iron out their offensive deficiencies (21st overall ranked offense). It's the defense, though, that is our main concern as it also ranks No. 21, leading to the fact that the Bills have been outyarded in each of its last three games by an average of -125 net yards per game. With it, the Titans check the better defense and a 10-4 ATS dog log of six or more points. Meanwhile, the Bills have struggled in Game Sevens, **1-8-1 ATS**, and against the AFC South, 4-7 SU and 3-8 ATS. We don't need to be reminded that taking a touchdown with top-ranked defenses is automatic.

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

Cincinnati over CLEVELAND by 3

Browns' head coach Kevin Stefanski is shockingly sticking with starting quarterback Deshaun Watson after a 1-5 start to the season. He's doing so because "Watson gives us the best chance to win." Given Watson's play this season, that's not exactly a glowing endorsement of backup quarterback Jameis Winston. Watson has completed 122 of 199 pass attempts for 1,020 yards, five touchdowns, and three interceptions. He's been sacked 31 times, which is the most in the league. The second most is Chicago Bears' quarterback Caleb Williams, who's been sacked 20 times. Through it all, **Cleveland hasn't scored 20 points** in any game this season. Meanwhile, the Browns are coming off their fourth defeat in a row, a 20-16 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles, with three of the four losses by six or fewer points. It will be interesting to see how they perform without top WR Amari Cooper, who was traded to the Buffalo Bills. Ironically, Cleveland is not the only team in this matchup with problems. The Bengals were the only team in the league last week that won its game but was outstatted in the victory. They are also the only team in the league against whom New England has won the stats. It's difficult laying points with a team that is 3-15 outright in its last eighteen division road games. With NFL home dogs treated like immigrants invading a posh hotel the previous week (**0-8 SUATS** overall), it may be time to take a long hard look at them this week. Remember, this game was a "pick" at the SuperBook in Las Vegas before the season started.

Houston by GREEN BAY by 6

Battle of playoff teams last season who appear headed in the same direction this season. Houston will look to scratch a scab-like 1-6-1 ATS mark against the NFC North and a 2-6-1 ATS record in its last nine games on the NFC road. Conversely, the Packers are a paltry 0-4-1 ATS as home favorites against AFC competition. So, while we can close the history books in this affair, we focus on how these two teams have performed this season. And it's here where the Texans stand tall as the **MIDWEEK ALERT** calls attention to the fact that Houston is the only team in the league whose overall offensive and defensive stats rank in the Top 10 on both sides of the ball. They also join Baltimore as the only squad that has won the stats in every game they played this season. With rising star QB CJ Stroud **6-1 ATS** as a dog against sub .700 foes, you know what to do.

Miami over INDIANAPOLIS by 6

Miami's latest backup quarterback, Tyler Huntley, appears to be the best in the Dolphins' recent lot. With it, he brings a **5-1 ATS** career mark in road starts into this matchup. In addition, Miami takes over as the visiting team in the series, checking in at **5-0 ATS**. While the Fins are also **4-0 ATS** when coming off a division roadie. It doesn't figure to be a walk in the park as star Indy RB Jonathan Taylor is expected back in the lineup after missing the past two games. He'll look to add to the Colts' 6-1 ATS record against the AFC East, but the Colts' 389-yard defense is 103 yards per game inferior to Miami's 286-yard stop unit. Like they say in Miami these days, 'In Tyler, We Trust.'

Detroit over MINNESOTA by 3

The Lions lost star DE Hutchinson for the season with a broken leg in last week's win over Dallas, which is a HUGE Loss. They'll attempt to rally around his loss today, though, when they take on division-leading Minnesota, one of only two teams in the league that have been spotless this year. Aside from bringing a 7-0 ATS series record into this scrum, they are **6-1 ATS** in their last seven division road games, not to mention **4-0 ATS** in their previous four. The unbeaten Vikes oblige at 0-5 ATS in their last five division hosters. With born-again QB Sam Darnold as the headline story of the year in the league this season, it's worth noting that he is just 7-14 SUATS in division duke-outs, including **1-5 ATS** as a favorite. You know what to do. Note: Back Book devotees call out the fact that Minnesota is a full-fledged 'I'm On Fire' play - undefeated teams in home games - but the **MIDWEEK ALERT** calls a halt to it, noting that the Vikes enter on a negative 0-3 ITS (In The Stats) slide in each of their last three contests.

Philadelphia over NY GIANTS by 8

The Giants put the final nail in the coffin on the Eagles' last season-ending 1-5 mark when they pulled the rug on the Green Birds at MetLife Stadium as a 5-point home dog. It left Philly as flat as a pancake when they went one-and-out in the postseason. All this to the team that started the season on a 10-1 win skid. Talk about feeling like Aunt Jemimah. The Eagles died from an overdose of too much butter and maple syrup. On the other side of the ball, the Giants

are much better on the road (2-1) than at home (0-3) this season, as the season started without a touchdown in the first six quarters. The good news is the G-Men have outyarded each of the last four opponents despite going just 2-2 in those games. However, the loss of Pro Bowl LT Andrew Thomas for the season to a foot injury is crippling for a team trying to lift itself out of the doldrums of six losing seasons in the last seven years. It isn't easy to do when you've scored just one touchdown in three home games. That is all the Giants have managed this season. They went almost 11 full quarters before scoring their first touchdown at MetLife Stadium this year. The height of frustration piqued for the Giants last week when they had three chances in Bengals territory in the fourth quarter, but they missed two field goals and were stopped on fourth down. This same offense settled for five field goals in their previous home game against the Cowboys. The feeling is that the Eagles are aching to smash someone, and the G-Men look like the perfect victim.

LA RAMS over Las Vegas by 8

Between the Browns, Patriots, and Raiders, the AFC certainly has its share of disappointing teams this season, as this triumvirate is 4-14 SU, 5-13 ATS, and 3-15 ITS (In The Stats) collectively. It's not quite the bottom of the barrel in the NFC, where the Rams (1-4 SUATS) own the second-worst record in the conference. So, which of these two bottom-feeders, the Rams or the Raiders, is worth supporting today? It depends on your perspective. The Rams are 6-0 ATS in this series, while the Sin City crew is 1-10 ATS after playing Pittsburgh. With Vegas sporting only two takeaways this season – the worst in the league – we'll cast our vote on the well-rested Rams off their Bye week.

WASHINGTON over Carolina by 8

It was a "Star Wars" battle last week when one of the league's most dynamic quarterbacks, Lamar Jackson, took on one of the most electrifying newcomers, Jayden Daniels, in Baltimore, where the Commanders fell, 30-23, as seven-point underdogs. Washington averages a league-best 31.0 points per game and is second in rushing yards per game (178.4). We think you'd agree that backing a listless Panthers crew that is 0-6 ATS in their last six games against the NFC East is tough. With the Commandos 4-1 ATS in their last five games against the NFC South and 8-2 ATS in games after battling Baltimore, our first nod in this matchup of weaklings that were 6-28 outright in 2023 is to the team that has a pulse – and a dynamic quarterback.

3★ BEST BET

SAN FRANCISCO over Kansas City by 10

Easily the 'game of the week' in the NFL finds a rematch of last year's Super Bowl, where the Chiefs edged the Niners, 25-22. In the game, San Francisco surrendered a season-high 455 yards and appeared to be a team set on becoming the first Super Bowl team to three-peat. And as expected, a bevy of good numbers supports each team in this prime-time showdown. For openers, as the world knows, Andy Reid has been super in games when his team has a full rest advantage, 22-4 SU and 16-10 ATS during the regular season, but only 2-5 ATS the last seven games, and 1-5 ATS when his team sports a .700 or greater win percentage. The better news is the Chiefs are 13-3 SU and 15-1 ATS in their last sixteen games as road dogs, including 11-0 ATS in the last eleven contests. It ties directly into QB Patrick Mahomes' 11-4 outright and 14-1 ATS NFL career mark when taking points. And we didn't even mention KC's 12-3 SUATS record in its last fifteen games against teams from the NFC. Whew! Kyle Shanahan counters with a 3-1 SUATS record when seeking revenge against .900 or greater opponents and is 13-4 SU and 11-6 ATS in games when his team enters, averaging 144 or more rushing yards per game, including 9-2 SUATS against .500 or greater opponents. The bottom line is that when push comes to shove, we like fading defending Super Bowl champions when they are unbeaten and on the non-division road, as they are just 15-28 ATS since 1980, including 3-11 ATS from Game Six out. In a win situation, we expect Frisco to win this game and get a measure of revenge. We add **THE CLINCHER: The 49ers are 10-5-1 ATS at home versus undefeated opponents, including 6-1-1 ATS when the 49ers own a .500 or greater win percentage.**

4★ BEST BET

PITTSBURGH over New York Jets by 11

This week, jet fuel came Gang Green's way when the Fast Planes acquired WR Davante Adams from the Raiders. Don't you find it strange that Adams was on Las Vegas' 'unable to play list,' yet when he was traded, he announced he was good to go this Sunday? The star wide receiver signed a five-year contract worth \$140 million in 2022, which averages \$28 million annually. By our math, he earns approximately \$1.65 million per game, meaning he milked the Raiders out of \$4.95 million over the past three weeks when he sat out with a "hamstring" injury. And now he's in line to hit a goldmine with the Jets in New York. Sheesh! They travel to the Steel City tonight knowing they are 0-5 ATS in the first of back-back- away games, as well as 7-13 SU and 8-12 ATS in their last twenty Sunday Night games, including 0-11 SU and 2-9 ATS when coming off a loss. Mike Tomlin is opting to start Russell Wilson behind center this evening, knowing he is 37-21-3 ATS as a dog in his NFL career, including 11-6-1 ATS of late (4-0 ATS at home). We cement the call with **THE CLINCHER: The Jets are 0-13-1 ATS in games after facing the Bills.**

Monday, October 21

5★ BEST BET

Baltimore over TAMPA BAY by 14

Safe to say we've learned the hard way that it's proven futile stepping in front of the cash machine from Baltimore this season. After stumbling out of the gate 0-2 SUATS, the Ravens have been ravenous since, going 4-0 SU, 3-1 ATS, and 4-0 ATS in their last four games while chewing up and spitting out anyone in their path. They are also 8-2 SU and 8-1-1 ATS on the Monday Night road, while the visiting team in this series is 6-0 ATS. The Bucs have held their own at home, winning outright in their last three games as a home dog, but a 2-6 ATS ledger on Monday nights keeps the Bay at bay. With head coach John Harbaugh residing inside this week's **TRIVIA TEASER** on page 2, we seal the deal with **THE CLINCHER: Tampa Bay QB Baker Mayfield is 8-15-1 ATS at home in his NFL career against foes coming off a win, including 1-12-1 ATS versus opponents that were favored by two or more points in their last game.**

ARIZONA over LA Chargers by 3

The Bolts have parsed together a 3-2 record under first-year head coach Jim Harbaugh, who looked like he was ready to go down on the sidelines last week. Knowing his work ethic, it was likely a bad case of inching out a close-call division game. The Jaw brings the best current NFL coaches record in the league, 52-24-1 overall, into this contest. However, on the other side of the ball, Cardinals' QB Kyler Murray brings a razor-sharp 20-8 ATS dog log into this fray against non-division foes, including 15-4 ATS in games when the Redbirds sport a sub .400 win percentage. With the Chargers 0-5 ATS after battling the Broncos, it's enough to put us on this live Monday Night home dog.

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Andy Iskoe logical7@cox.net	Missouri -5.5	9-3 / 0-0 / 15 pts	Kelly In Vegas kelly@wagertalk.com	Oklahoma St +10.5	9-3 / 0-0 / 13 pts
BB Documented Plays www.the-swami.com	Oklahoma St +10.5	6-6 / 0-0 / 8 pts	Marco D'Angelo marco@wagertalk.com	Utah -4.5	9-3 / 0-0 / 14 pts
Billy The Kid playbooksports.com	Georgia +3.5	6-6 / 0-0 / 8 pts	Monte Kivo mkivo23@gmail.com	Jm Madison -9.5	6-6 / 0-0 / 10 pts
Captain Morgan playbooksports.com	Arizona St +3.5	8-4 / 0-0 / 11 pts	Norm Hitzges norm1310@gmail.com	Texas A&M -14.5	9-3 / 0-0 / 14 pts
CR Plays jeffparetts@gmail.com	BROWNS +5.5	8-4 / 0-0 / 12 pts	Prime Sports Network nanadepalma1@aol.com	PACKERS -3.5	6-6 / 0-0 / 9 pts
Doc's Sports max@docsports.com	Kansas -6.5	6-6 / 0-0 / 10 pts	Ralph Michaels calsports@aol.com	C Michigan +2.5	8-4 / 0-0 / 14 pts
Dr. Alan Caprec88@aol.com	Alabama -2.5	6-6 / 0-0 / 8 pts	Robbie Gainous r_gainous@yahoo.com	California -10.5	7-5 / 0-0 / 11 pts
James Patrick jamespatricksports@gmail.com	Coastal Caro +3.5	7-5 / 0-0 / 10 pts	Ross Benjamin benjaminsports@yahoo.com	Arkansas +3.5	7-5 / 0-0 / 10 pts
Jeff Michaels jmsports@gmx.com	Iowa St -13.5	9-3 / 0-0 / 13 pts	Stormin' Norman tica0004@hotmail.com	E Michigan -2.5	10-2 / 0-0 / 14 pts
JH Sportsline jhsportsline@yahoo.com	VIKINGS -2.5	8-4 / 0-0 / 11 pts	Tony Mejia tntyce1414@gmail.com	Houston +6.5	8-4 / 0-0 / 11 pts

ALSO WITH 8 POINTS: Dwayne Bryant, Joe Lisi, Ken Thomson, Luis Stopa, Robert Ferringo, and Sammy Jankus.

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THE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP: O/U STYLE

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

All games played on this week's NFL schedule are listed below. As always, the number listed first is the 'OVER' and the number listed second is the 'UNDER'. If you like what you see, there's much more – including **5 NFL O/U BEST BETS** – inside the **2024 Playbook 'TOTALS' TIPSHEET** by Victor King – the definitive weekly OU newsletter. A single issue is only \$11.00. Rest-of-Season subscription is \$82.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2024 "Totals Train"! ***This week's GAME 7 Playbook O/U TREND play: Bengals @ Browns 'UNDER' the TOTAL'**

2024 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK SEVEN

GAME MATCHUPS		KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
Denver (Open: 37.5) NEW ORLEANS	4-1 OU L5 non-conf RG... 4-1 OU aft div HG... 6-2 OU aft LAC... but 0-3 OU Game 7... 1-4 OU on Thursdays 5-0 OU Game 7... 3-0 OU Thursdays L2Y... but 0-3 OU L3 vs Den (43.3)... 1-5 OU in 2nd of BB HG... 1-4 OU aft TBay	
New England (43) Jacksonville (London)	4-0 OU Game 7... 3-1 OU bef div HG... 4-2 OU aft Hou... 4-2 OU bef Jets... but 1-3 OU L4 vs AFC South 3-0 OU L3 vs NEng (59.6)... 7-1 OU as favs > 3 pts... but 1-6 OU L7 vs .250 < opp... 1-6 OU L7 Neutral Site games	
Seattle (50.5) ATLANTA	6-1 OU aft div HG... 4-1 OU away w/ OU 48 > pts... 9-2 OU L11 in Domes... 3-1 OU Game 7... but 1-3-1 OU aft Thur gm 4-1 OU L5 vs Sea (55.0)... 9-3 OU aft Car... but 1-11 OU bef TB... 1-6 OU home aft score 35 > pts... 2-6 OU vs opp off Thur gm	
Tennessee (42) BUFFALO	7-1-1 OU vs AFC East... but 0-4 OU 1st of BB RG... 0-4 OU vs opp off Mon gm... 1-4 OU aft Indy... 1-4 OU aft div HG 7-0 OU aft Jets... 3-0 OU L3 vs Ten (57.0)... 4-1 OU home vs AFC South... 7-3 OU aft Monday RG... but 1-3 OU Game 7	
Cincinnati (43) CLEVELAND	0-4 OU aft NYG... 1-5 OU off DD road win... 1-4 OU L5 vs Clev (37.4)... 1-4 OU bef Phil... 1-4 OU L5 as conf RF's 0-5 OU L5 div HG... 0-4 OU off SU loss / ATS win... 1-5 OU bef Balt... 1-4 OU home off BB RG... 2-6 OU Game 7	
Houston (47.5) GEEEN BAY	4-2 OU aft NEng... but 0-4 OU off SU win 20 > pts... 0-4 OU Game 7... 0-4 OU bef Colts... 1-4 OU L5 non-conf RG 4-1 OU non-conf HF's 7 < pts... 12-3 OU off SU win 21 > pts... but 1-4 OU L5 vs Hou (45.8)... 1-3 OU Game 7... 1-3 OU aft Arz	
Miami (43.5) INDIANAPOLIS	5-2 OU L7 in Domes... but 1-5 OU aft Bye... 1-3 OU Game 6... 1-3 OU L4 vs Indy (38.2)... 3-9 OU L12 vs AFC South 8-0 OU bef Hou... 4-1 OU as non-div HF's 5 < pts... 3-1 OU Game 7... 7-3 OU aft Tenn... but 2-5 OU aft div RG	
Detroit (49.5) MINNESOTA	5-0 OU L5 vs Min (53.8)... 3-0 OU aft score 40+ pts... 4-1 OU aft Dal... but 0-4 OU Game 6... 1-4 OU vs opp off Bye Week 7-0 OU vs conf w/ OU 47 > pts... 4-1 OU L5 div HG... 4-2 OU Game 6... but 1-4 OU aft Bye Week... 1-4 OU vs .750 > opp	
Philadelphia (43) NY GIANTS	4-0 OU aft non-conf HG... 5-2 OU Game 6... but 0-4 OU in 1st of BB RG... 1-4 OU aft Clev... 1-3 OU L4 vs NYG 0-8 OU Game 7... 0-7 OU bef Monday gm... 1-8 OU vs sing revenge... 2-11 OU L13 div HG... 3-6 OU aft non-conf HG	
Las Vegas (43.5) LA RAMS	10-2 OU L12 as non-conf RD's... 4-1-1 OU aft Pit... 3-1 OU bef KC... 6-3 OU Game 7... but 0-3 OU vs opp off Bye Week 3-1 OU non-div favs > 3 pts... but 0-6 OU Game 6... 1-5 OU L6 vs LV (40.3)... 2-8 OU L10 non-conf HG... 3-7 OU aft Bye	
Carolina (52) WASHINGTON	4-1 OU 1st of BB RG... 4-1 OU w/ OU 48 > pts... 3-1 OU aft div HG... but 0-3 OU Game 7... 1-4 OU vs NFC East 0-7 OU L7 home vs Car (35.1)... 1-5 OU Game 7... 1-5 OU in 1st of BB HG... 2-6 OU aft non-conf RG... 3-9 OU as favs 5 > pts	
Kansas City (46.5) SAN FRANCISCO	4-1 OU L5 vs SF (50.2)... 4-2 OU L6 non-conf RG... but 0-4 OU Game 6... 0-3 OU aft Bye... 2-6 OU vs opp off Thur RG 5-0 OU L5 non-conf HG... 3-0 OU aft div RG... 3-0 OU aft Thursday gm... 4-1 OU vs opp off Bye... 3-1 OU aft Seat	
NY Jets (36.5) PITTSBURGH	4-1-1 OU aft Monday gm... 3-1 OU L4 vs AFC North... but 1-5 OU L6 vs Pit (34.8)... 1-3 OU Game 7... 3-6 OU aft div HG 0-5 OU aft LV... 0-5 OU in 1st of BB HG... 0-3 OU vs opp off Mon gm... 1-4 OU Game 7... 3-9 OU aft score 30 > pts	
Baltimore (48.5) TAMPA BAY	4-1 OU on Mondays... 4-1 OU L5 non-conf RG... 3-1 OU Game 7... but 0-6 OU bef Clev... 0-4 OU bef div RG 6-1 OU bef Atl... 6-1 OU aft score 40 > pts... but 0-5 OU Mondays... 1-7 OU as non-conf HD's... 1-5 OU aft NOri	
LA Chargers (43.5) ARIZONA	7-1 OU aft Den... 8-3 OU L11 vs NFC West... but 0-5 OU Mondays... 0-4 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 1-4 OU Game 6 5-0-1 OU L6 vs AFC West... 4-1 OU L5 non-conf HG... but 2-10 OU on Mondays... 1-4 OU aft GBay... 3-7 OU Game 7	
Bye Week	Chicago Bears	
Bye Week	Dallas Cowboys	

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KENNY WHITE'S 2024 FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS

Power Ratings courtesy of KennyWhiteSports.com

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

Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF
NCAA														
126	Air Force	Mountain West	91	4.5	42	Kansas	Big 12	112	4.5	52	Rutgers	Big Ten	110	4.5
132	Akron	Mid-American	87	2	17	Kansas St	Big 12	117.5	5.5	101	Sam Houston St	Conference USA	97.5	3.5
4	Alabama	Southeastern	129	6	133	Kennesaw St	Conference USA	83.5	3.5	111	San Diego St	Mountain West	95.5	3.5
90	Appalachian St	Sun Belt	100.5	4.5	134	Kent St	Mid-American	79.5	4	102	San Jose St	Mountain West	96.5	4.5
38	Arizona	Big-12	112.5	5	19	Kentucky	Southeastern	116.5	4	36	SMU	Atlantic Coast	113	4.5
57	Arizona St	Big-12	108	3.5	55	Liberty	Conference USA	108.5	4	87	South Alabama	Sun Belt	101	3
31	Arkansas	Southeastern	114	4.5	67	Louisiana	Sun Belt	106	3.5	42	South Carolina	Southeastern	112	5.5
95	Arkansas St	Sun Belt	99.5	3.5	111	Louisiana Tech	Conference USA	95.5	4.5	118	Southern Miss	Sun Belt	94.5	4
73	Army	American Athletic	104.5	3.5	15	Louisville	Atlantic Coast	118.5	5.5	90	Stanford	Atlantic Coast	100.5	4
26	Auburn	Southeastern	115	5.5	10	LSU	Southeastern	121.5	6	54	Syracuse	Atlantic Coast	109	5
130	Ball St	Mid-American	88	3	98	Marshall	Sun Belt	98.5	4	26	TCU	Big 12	115	5.5
45	Baylor	Big 12	111.5	4	62	Maryland	Big Ten	107	4.5	128	Temple	American Athletic	89	3
19	Boise St	Mountain West	116.5	5.5	45	Memphis	American Athletic	111.5	3	7	Tennessee	Southeastern	126	6
64	Boston College	Atlantic Coast	106.5	4	9	Miami (FL)	Atlantic Coast	123.5	3.5	1	Texas	Southeastern	131	5.5
78	Bowling Green	Mid-American	103	2	81	Miami (OH)	Mid-American	102.5	2.5	16	Texas A&M	Southeastern	118	6
127	Buffalo	Mid-American	90.5	3	22	Michigan	Big Ten	116	5.5	53	Texas St	Sun Belt	109.5	4
33	BYU	Big 12	113.5	5	59	Michigan St	Big Ten	107.5	4.5	55	Texas Tech	Big 12	108.5	5.5
42	California	Atlantic Coast	112	4	121	Middle Tenn St	Conference USA	92.5	3.5	78	Toledo	Mid-American	103	4
111	C Michigan	Mid-American	95.5	2.5	50	Minnesota	Big Ten	110.5	5	118	Troy	Sun Belt	94.5	4
115	Charlotte	American Athletic	95	2.5	92	Mississippi St	Southeastern	100	5	47	Tulane	American Athletic	111	3
57	Cincinnati	Big 12	108	4.5	22	Missouri	Southeastern	116	5	122	Tulsa	American Athletic	92	3.5
13	Clemson	Atlantic Coast	120	5.5	78	Navy	American Athletic	103	4	107	UAB	American Athletic	96	4.5
81	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	102.5	3.5	67	NC State	Atlantic Coast	106	4.5	31	UCF	Big 12	114	4.5
38	Colorado	Big 12	112.5	4.5	28	Nebraska	Big Ten	114.5	5	64	UCLA	Big Ten	106.5	3.5
96	Colorado St	Mountain West	99	4.5	115	Nevada	Mountain West	95	4	92	UConn	Independent	100	3.5
67	Duke	Atlantic Coast	106	4.5	102	New Mexico	Mountain West	96.5	3	124	UL-Monroe	Sun Belt	91.5	3
87	East Carolina	American Athletic	101	4	131	New Mexico St	Conference USA	87.5	4	129	UMass	Independent	88.5	2
115	E Michigan	Mid-American	95	2	59	North Carolina	Atlantic Coast	107.5	4.5	47	UNLV	Mountain West	111	3
36	Florida	Southeastern	113	5.5	81	North Texas	American Athletic	102.5	3.5	12	USC	Big Ten	121	5.5
118	Florida Atlantic	American Athletic	94.5	3	84	No Illinois	Mid-American	102	3.5	86	USF	American Athletic	101.5	3
122	Florida Int'l	Conference USA	92	2.5	84	Northwestern	Big Ten	102	3	28	Utah	Big 12	114.5	5.5
67	Florida St	American Coast	106	6	10	Notre Dame	Independent	121.5	5.5	102	Utah St	Mountain West	96.5	4
62	Fresno St	Mountain West	107	4.5	2	Ohio State	Big Ten	130	6.5	124	UTEP	Conference USA	91.5	3
3	Georgia	Southeastern	129.5	6.5	111	Ohio U	Mid-American	95.5	4.5	75	UTSA	American Athletic	104	3
107	Geo Southern	Sun Belt	96	4	19	Oklahoma	Southeastern	116.5	5.5	73	Vanderbilt	Southeastern	104.5	4
107	Georgia St	Sun Belt	96	2	33	Oklahoma St	Big 12	113.5	5	59	Virginia	Atlantic Coast	107.5	4
47	Georgia Tech	Atlantic Coast	111	4.5	99	Old Dominion	Sun Belt	99	2.5	38	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	112.5	5
107	Hawaii	Mountain West	96	4.5	5	Ole Miss	Southeastern	127.5	5.5	71	Wake Forest	Atlantic Coast	105	4.5
71	Houston	Big 12	105	4	6	Oregon	Big Ten	126.5	5.5	38	Washington	Big Ten	112.5	5.5
50	Illinois	Big Ten	110.5	4.5	77	Oregon St	Pac-12	103.5	5.5	75	Washington St	Pac-12	104	4
18	Indiana	Big Ten	117	4.5	7	Penn St	Big Ten	126	6	22	West Virginia	Big 12	116	5.5
25	Iowa	Big Ten	115.5	5	33	Pitt	Atlantic Coast	113.5	4.5	92	W Kentucky	Conference USA	100	4
14	Iowa St	Big 12	119.5	5.5	87	Purdue	Big Ten	101	4.5	102	W Michigan	Mid-American	96.5	4
98	Jacksonville St	Conference USA	98.5	5.5	98	Rice	American Athletic	98.5	3	28	Wisconsin	Big Ten	114.5	5.5
64	James Madison	Sun Belt	106.5	4.5						102	Wyoming	Mountain West	96.5	5


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

Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF
NFL														
28	Arizona Cardinals	NFC West	97.5	2.5	6	Houston Texans	AFC South	104	2.5	20	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	100	1.5
12	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	102.5	2.5	25	Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	98.5	2	31	New England Pats	AFC East	95	1.5
3	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	106.5	3.5	19	Jacksonville Jaguars	AFC South	100.5	1.5	14	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	101.5	2
7	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	103.5	3	1	Kansas City Chiefs	AFC West	110	2	25	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	98.5	1.5
31	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	95	1.5	23	Las Vegas Raiders	AFC West	99	2.5	10	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	103	2
23	Chicago Bears	NFC North	99	2.5	14	L.A. Chargers	AFC West	101.5	1.5	5	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	105	1.5
12	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	102.5	2	29	L.A. Rams	NFC West	97	2	7	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	103.5	1.5
22	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	99.5	2.5	27	Miami Dolphins	AFC East	98	2.5	2	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	107	1.5
7	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	103.5	3						10	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	103	1.5
29	Denver Broncos	AFC West	97	2.5						18	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	101	2
3	Detroit Lions	NFC North	106.5	2.5						20	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	100	2
14	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	101.5	2.5						14	Wash Commanders	NFC East	101.5	1.5

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THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS

A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT
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FOR WEEK ENDING MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024		3★ BEST BET	4★ BEST BET	5★ BEST BET
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2024 COLLEGE & PRO FOOTBALL - OCTOBER 15-21

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

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

OL PB				OL PB				OL PB				OL PB			
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15				331	MIAMI FLA	4'		373	USC	7'	3	417	ARKANSAS ST	1'	4
				332	12:00 PM LOUISVILLE ABC		3	374	4:00 PM MARYLAND FS1			418	7:00 PM SO MISS ESPN+		
301	TROY			333	3:30 PM OHIO		3	375	3:30 PM MICHIGAN			419	12:00 PM NEBRASKA		
302	7:30 PM S ALABAMA ESPN2	11	6	334	MIAMI OH ESPN+	3'		376	ILLINOIS ★ CBS	1	10	420	INDIANA FOX	5	11
303	KENNESAW ST			335	2:00 PM TULSA			377	WISCONSIN	7	11	NFL BYES: Chicago Bears, Dallas Cowboys			
304	8:00 PM MTSU CBSSN	10	14	336	TEMPLE ESPN+	2'	2	378	12:00 PM N'WESTERN BTN						
305	LA TECH ESPN2	11	10	337	W MICHIGAN		6	379	NEW MEXICO	1'					
306	9:00 PM NEW MEXICO ST			338	3:30 PM BUFFALO ESPN+	1		380	4:00 PM UTAH ST truTV		3				
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16				339	KENTUCKY ★		10	381	TCU			SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20			
				340	7:45 PM FLORIDA SEC	2'		382	10:30 PM UTAH ESPN	6'	13				
307	W KENTUCKY		3	341	TEXAS ST ESPN+	10	7	383	COLORADO ST	7'	3				
308	7:00 PM S HOUSTON ESPN2	3		342	3:30 PM OLD DOMINION			384	8:00 PM AIR FORCE ESPN+						
309	FLORIDA INT'L	5'	8	343	CHARLOTTE			385	WYOMING			451	NEW ENGLAND		
310	9:00 PM UTEP CBSSN			344	3:30 PM NAVY CBSSN	17	10	386	4:00 PM SAN JOSE ST	11	4	452	9:30 AM (at London) JACKSONVILLE NFL	5'	4
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17				345	ALABAMA	2'		387	COLORADO			453	SEATTLE		
				346	3:30 PM TENNESSEE ★ ABC		10	388	4:00 PM ARIZONA FOX	3'	10	454	1:00 PM ATLANTA FOX	2'	8
311	DENVER			347	NOTRE DAME	8'	14	391	NC STATE			455	TENNESSEE		
312	8:15 PM N ORLEANS PRIME	Pk	3	348	3:30 PM GA TECH ESPN			392	3:30 PM CALIFORNIA ACC	10'	14	456	1:00 PM BUFFALO CBS	9'	3
313	BOSTON COLLEGE			349	LOUISIANA	3'		393	SMU	14'	16	457	CINCINNATI	4'	3
314	7:30 PM VA TECH ESPN	7	3	350	12:00 PM COASTAL CARO		1	394	8:00 PM STANFORD ACC			458	1:00 PM CLEVELAND CBS		
315	GEORGIA ST			351	C MICHIGAN			395	BALL ST			459	HOUSTON		6
316	7:00 PM MARSHALL ESPN2	8'	5	352	2:00 PM E MICHIGAN ESPN+	2	6	396	7:00 PM VANDERBILT ESPN+	26'	24	460	1:00 PM GREEN BAY CBS	3	
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18				353	VIRGINIA			397	HOUSTON			461	MIAMI		6
				354	12:00 PM CLEMSON ACC	21'	16	398	3:30 PM KANSAS ESPN+	6'	8	462	1:00 PM INDIANAPOLIS FOX	4	
317	FLORIDA ST		6	355	ARIZONA ST		4	399	LSU	2'		463	DETROIT		3
318	7:00 PM DUKE ESPN2	3		356	12:00 PM CINCINNATI ESPN+	2'		400	7:00 PM ARKANSAS ESPN		6	464	1:00 PM MINNESOTA FOX	1'	
319	OREGON	28	20	357	7:30 PM KANSAS ST	3	7	401	GEORGIA		3	465	PHILADELPHIA	4	8
320	8:00 PM PURDUE FOX			358	7:30 PM W VIRGINIA FOX			402	7:30 PM TEXAS ABC	3'		466	1:00 PM NY GIANTS FOX		
321	OKLAHOMA ST ★			359	NORTH TEXAS			403	RICE			467	LAS VEGAS		
322	10:15 PM BYU ESPN	8	3	360	7:30 PM MEMPHIS ESPN2	10'	6	404	3:30 PM TULANE ESPN+	22'	25	468	4:05 PM LA RAMS CBS	5'	8
389	FRESNO ST	3	10	361	4:00 PM BAYLOR			405	TEXAS A&M	14'	13	469	4:25 PM CAROLINA		
390	10:30 PM NEVADA CBSSN			362	4:00 PM TEXAS TECH ESPN2	6'	1	406	4:15 PM MISSISSIPPI ST SEC			470	WASHINGTON CBS	8'	8
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19				363	KENT ST ESPN+			407	FLA ATLANTIC			471	4:25 PM KANSAS CITY FOX		
				364	3:30 PM BOWLING GREEN	19'	24	408	3:30 PM UTSA ESPN+	4	3	472	SAN FRANCISCO ★	Pk	10
323	UCF			365	SOUTH CAROLINA			409	AUBURN			473	NY JETS		
324	7:30 PM IOWA ST FS1	13	6	366	12:45 PM OKLAHOMA SEC	3	1	410	12:00 PM MISSOURI ESPN	6'	3	474	8:20 PM PITTSBURGH ★ NBC	1'	11
325	WAKE FOREST		3	367	3:30 PM TOLEDO		6	411	HAWAII CW			MONDAY, OCTOBER 21			
326	12:00 PM UCONN CBSSN	2		368	NO ILLINOIS ESPN+	2		412	3:30 PM WASHINGTON ST	19'	15				
327	EAST CAROLINA			369	UAB			413	UNLV	6	3				
328	12:00 PM ARMY ESPN2	16'	10	370	3:30 PM USF ESPN+	13'	14	414	10:00 PM OREGON ST CW						
329	J MADISON ESPN+	9	14	371	4:00 PM UCLA			415	IOWA	6	8	475	BALTIMORE ★ ABC	4'	14
330	4:00 PM GA SOUTHERN			372	12:00 PM RUTGERS FS1	6'	3	416	7:30 PM MICHIGAN ST NBC			476	8:15 PM TAMPA BAY ESPN		
												477	9:00 PM LA CHARGERS	2'	
												478	ARIZONA ESPN+		3