

Free Picks – April 13th

This week we take advantage of some key emotional matchups, as the NBA regular seasons head into their final few days. Stars will be sitting on some teams, other teams will be fighting for their lives, and we'll be exploiting lines across NBA and MLB.

Excellent situational play here on the Kansas City Royals versus the Baltimore Orioles tonight. The Orioles pulled out a great extra inning win last night led by Jay Gibbons, who helped the team escape last place in the AL East by hitting a bases-loaded single with two outs in the 10th inning. After such an emotional win, we're looking for a letdown today. Erik Bedard, today's starter for the Oriole Crew, has earned nine runs in his two starts of the season. The Orioles' offense has only scored 4 runs in their last three games, and tonight they will come in thinking they're going to pump up their batting averages against this weak team. They're going to swing at pitches out of the zone, they're going to lack focus and discipline, and before they know it, the game will be over.

KC's Brandon Duckworth, on the other hand, tossed his best start in the last couple of years, throwing 6 1/3 shutout innings last Sunday against the Tigers. After a tough loss last night for the Royals, this is the game that the bad team get excited about because they have a tall task in front of them, but have the ability to get it done. This is the perfect mindstate for a young team to perform at optimum level.

We expect the winning ticket lies in the emotional advantage for KC, and we're going to Play **Kansas City Royals**.

In NBA action, the Phoenix Suns and the Los Angeles Lakers are two of the highest-scoring teams in the league, and when they face off tonight, we will see another high-scoring game. The Suns have been outstanding at their home court lately: 125 against Denver, 126 against Dallas, and 109 against Seattle. Steve Nash will be looking to get the team's offense in high gear for the playoffs. The Lakers defense is pathetic, allowing an average of 114.25 points per game in their last four. After losing to the Clippers last night, the tired Lakers have no way to keep up with the Suns' run-and-gun style of offense. We like the Suns' chances of putting up a big number against a Lakers team that cannot control the tempo against ANYONE. However, there is still a chance that Kobe Bryant will have another 50-point game against the weak Suns defense. Both teams shoot well from the free throw line, neither team defends well in the paint, and when you factor everything in, the case for the Over speaks loud and clear.

Play Los Angeles Lakers/ Phoenix Suns Over 219.5

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