

Free Picks – April 14th Weekend

This week we take advantage of some key emotional matchups, as the NHL and 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 all sports.

In NBA action, the Phoenix Suns and the Golden State Warriors are two of the highest-scoring teams in the league, and when they face off tonight, defense will be featured about as much as Amare Stoudamire – that is, it will be hanging out with the coach on the sidelines. The Suns have been outstanding lately: 114 against Seattle, 123 against Sacramento, and 117 against Dallas last night. Steve Nash will be looking to get the team's offense in high gear for the playoffs, and against a Golden State team that cannot control the tempo against ANYONE, we like the Suns' chances of putting up a big number. However, when the Warriors do succeed, they tend to be playing a similar run-and-gun style of play. Let's take a brief look at past history between these two teams: the Suns have scored 112 and 118 points in their last two meetings against the Warriors, and in two of the last four meetings between these clubs, the **loser** has had at least 110 points. 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 the Over.**

Excellent situational play here on the New York Mets versus the Milwaukee Brewers tonight. The Brewers pulled out a great extra inning win last night in St. Louis led by Carlos Lee, who saved the game by pulling back the potentially game-winning homer in the 10th, then smacking his own game winner in the top of the 11th. After such an emotional win, we're looking for a letdown today. Chris Capuano, today's starter for the Brew Crew, has split his last 10 games on the mound, and only four of those have been quality starts. Tom Glavine, on the other hand, started on opening day and is reminding us of the Tom Glavine from 10 years ago. The Mets have won his last 5 starts and he has a streak of 12 quality starts going into tonight's ball game. In 11 of his last 12 outings, Glavine has allowed 2 ER or less. We expect the host Mets to continue their winning ways, and we're going to **Play New York Mets.**

With just one game in the NHL tonight, Gary Wright and James Lovett are not going to be releasing a PUCKLINE POUNDING this week; instead playing a straight underdog wager on the Tampa Bay Lightning this week. The Lightning have struggled as of late, but will turn it around tonight and take a huge step towards clinching the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference playoff picture. The Lightning have played the Hurricanes very well in recent history, losing just three times in the last 17 meetings between the teams. The Hurricanes have already clinched the playoffs and will not have the drive the Lightning will show tonight. Take the gamble, and **Play Tampa Bay.**

For this week's parlay, Tim and his crew are recommending plays on the Miami Heat and New Jersey Nets. Miami needs one win to clinch the second overall seed in the

East, which would give them home court advantage for both the first and second rounds of the playoffs. Coach Pat Riley will rest his key players, but only after the Heat clinch. They need one game to do that, and it comes tonight, as the team will arrive fully focused and ready to take care of business. Dwyane Wade will be back, and James Posey is also expected to return. Miami is 2-0 SU / ATS against Philly this season, and we feel that on their home court, they should be much stronger favorites – after all, this team is 30-9 SU this season at home, and tonight comes into the game with a strong emotional incentive. Although Philadelphia put up a big win against New Jersey, we're not convinced they have what it takes to pull off a similar upset two nights in a row.

We're recommending the New Jersey Nets because they are simply a better team than this line would indicate. Emotional reasons play a part here too, as we'll explain. New Jersey is on a 15-3 SU / 11-6-1 ATS run, and additionally, Boston has completely packed it in! They looked bored and tired in a 101-86 home loss to the catastrophic New York Knicks, a game in which Delonte West sat out along with Al Jefferson and Wally Szczerbiak. The Celtics are playing almost no defense, and are just 5-10 SU in their last 15. New Jersey will be particularly inspired to get their system mastered in time for the playoffs. They want to make sure the team is running on all cylinders when they play the likes of Detroit or Miami, and finally, this is a Nets team that just got EMBARRASSED by Philadelphia! These guys are too good to let that happen twice. **Parlay the Miami Heat and the New Jersey Nets.**

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