

## Free Picks – April 28<sup>th</sup> Weekend

The cash keeps flowing in as we return to playoff action this week in our NBA and NHL picks. We also include our standard baseball straight wager, and another weekly parlay.

We hit the ice with one of our famous NHL totals, and we're banking the under as the Carolina Hurricanes look to lock down on D against Montreal tonight. After losing the first two games of the series at home, the Hurricanes played much better in Game three. We were shocked to see the Habs put up 12 goals in their first two wins, and we're looking for a more subdued performance tonight. Huet has been hot in goal for Montreal, making 34 saves in his home playoff debut. We expect to see a similar defensive battle in Game 3. In this situation these two teams combine to score just over six, and allow just under six, per game. However, in the playoffs, this number ought to be at least a half-goal lower. We'll take advantage and **Play the Under**.

We are stunned that the Phoenix Suns—yes, the #2 seed in the West Phoenix Suns—are *underdogs* in tonight's game at Los Angeles. We were shocked to see the Lakers take a game in Phoenix, but we'll be twice as shocked if Phoenix doesn't come back tonight and take Game 3. Everyone makes a big deal about the greatness of Kobe Bryant, but there is a reason Steve Nash is the back-to-back MVP! He's a great basketball player in his own right, leading the league in assists in back-to-back years as well. Let's keep in mind that the Lakers are 2-7-1 ATS in their last 9 playoff games. Kobe Bryant has been logging a ton of minutes for the Lakers, and will need to shoulder more and more of the burden as this series goes on. Phoenix has greater depth and multiple legitimate scoring threats. We predict Phoenix will get back to the run-and-gun style of play they are known for, and pick up a SU win Friday night. **Play Phoenix on the Moneyline**.

Heading now to the diamond, we'll take Baltimore against a weak Seattle Mariners team on Friday. Gil Meche, the Mariners' starter, is off to a poor start, with a 5.06 ERA in 4 outings. 20 base runners and 9 ER in just 10 IP? Not the kind of player we want to back. In his last 30 road night starts, Meche has a 6.00 ERA, and his team has gone 12-18. Daniel Cabrera, on the other hand, looked good in his last home start, shutting out the Angels in 7 IP. We love that he won all four of his starts against Seattle in 2005 and that his ERA is an admirable 2.63. Finally, the Mariners are the 26<sup>th</sup> ranked team in hitting in the majors. **Play the Orioles**.

Tim Spears and the ParlayPick gang are back at it this week with a two-team parlay, recommending you parlay the Blue Jays and the Under in the San Diego / Los Angeles Dodgers game.

Toronto RHP Roy Halladay is simply on another level compared to New York starter Jaret Wright. Halladay rested up a stiff forearm and came back to throw a beauty, giving up 1 ER and 6 H through 5 IP against Boston. Halladay has great career numbers

against the Yankees, standing at 8-4 with a 3.21 ERA against the Bronx Bombers. He's had five days in between these starts, and should be well rested. In Wright's first start of the year, he gave up 3 ER and 8 H in only 3 IP, and is just 1-4 against the Jays in his career. We like the Blue Jays in this one.

The Padres have produced two runs or less in six of their last seven, and scored just three runs in their three game series against Arizona. Jae Seo finished last season with a 2.59 ERA, allowed only three BB in his four starts this year, and should dominate this Padres lineup. However, LA has also been struggling offensively lately, with just 3.5 runs per game in their last 12. Padres' starter Chris Young has opponents hitting just .198 against him for the season. **Parlay the Blue Jays and the Under in the Padres / Dodgers game.**

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