

Free Picks – NEW YEARS Weekend

With a smaller card than usual last weekend, (just two plays due to a reduced NHL schedule) we return this week rolling along with 9 wins in our last 12 plays. 75% in the last month? We haven't heard too many complaints—find us another FREE picks service that can boast that kind of consistency, and we'll be stunned. This week, stack a little more cash as we return with our popular PUCKLINE POUNDING, where we give you tasty underdog value on a great team, by picking a blowout! The Puckline Pounding is 5-1 in our last six plays. Best wishes for 2006!!

We're picking the Saints / Buccaneers game on Sunday to be a defensive slugfest, based on all the data we could accumulate, particularly recent trends. The "under" has gone 3-1 in the last four Saints games, scoring a total of just 42 points in that span—just 10.5 per game! QB Aaron Brooks is riding the pine while no-name Todd Bouman starts, which has given minimal offensive firepower. The Bucs will come out strong, with a lot to play for, but for Tampa, that means a strong defensive commitment, just as was the case when these two teams played last month. Don't forget, the Bucs took that matchup 10-3 – we wouldn't be surprised to see a similarly low-scoring game. Tampa is holding opponents to just 268 yards of offense when they play at home this year. The Saints will be lucky to hit that number on Sunday. Expect a lot from RB Cadillac Williams. The Bucs know they just need a win to clinch, and will let him handle the ball to prolong their drives. For the sports bettor, that means in effect a shorter game, and in effect, a lower score. Finally, the last five times these teams have met, the Under has taken the day. **Play the Under.**

We love the UCLA Bruins against Northwestern tonight. Both these teams are offensive forces, but the Bruins, at 9-2, should have no problems covering this spread. The Cats can score points. Too bad they can't defend worth anything. UCLA got their butts whipped by USC in their last game and will have spent the better part of the last month stewing about it, desperate to show they deserve a bowl game. The Bruins will pick apart a weak Northwestern defense, and are prepared for the Cats' pass-first offense. Expect a high-scoring game, but with UCLA ahead by double digits. **Play UCLA.**

It's gotta be tough being Larry Brown. He leaves Detroit to take his "dream job" in New York, the Pistons start slapping the entire league upside the head, and his "dream job" is turning into a nightmare in New York. Things don't get any easier tonight as his Knicks, 3-12 on the road, head to Milwaukee, the 5th best team in the tough Eastern Conference, who have been a tough home team this season. Both teams come into this one with two game losing streaks, but Milwaukee is still 6-4 in their past 10, whereas New York has practically forgotten what winning looks like, going 1-9 in that span. New York's losses haven't been pretty either, their most recent blowout coming against a very mediocre Orlando team. This one's going to cover easily – **Play Milwaukee.**

Pretty simple call today for this one... all but one matchup in the NHL tonight is relatively evenly matched, and one's a no-brainer. The Ottawa Senators, by consensus the best team in the NHL this season at 26-6, take on the very average New York Islanders

team, at 17-17. Ottawa has been dominant against Eastern Conference teams, at 24-5-1, whereas New York has struggled. The Senators are more than doubling their opponents' goal output, and at home they've been on fire, at 15-3-0. The Islanders are getting outscored on the season by their opponents and should put up no fight against the Senators. Lay the goal and a half and make some money. **Play Ottawa**.

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