

## Free Picks – February 10<sup>th</sup> Weekend

Last week was, as they say, just one of those weeks. We, like a ton of other “sharps” around the globe, analyzed all the data and picked the Seahawks to cover in Super Bowl XL. We’re not going to blame the officiating completely, as some people have, but there were a few calls that could have gone either way and might have made a difference.

We’ve discussed this before though, and it’s an important point to come back to: don’t make one play that will break the bank. As you know from reading these tips in 2005, we hit 60% in that period – a fantastic record. But we had our losing streaks like any other handicapper, and we bounced back. The important thing is not to put ALL your money on the Super Bowl or any other big game. Make consistent, balanced plays, and look for a steady increase to your bank roll, not one big windfall. That’s how the people who make money over the long term in this business do it.

It seems hard to believe, but March is right around the corner, and with it comes one of our favorite times of year: March Madness. We will be your source for free NCAA Basketball plays every week until the end of the season, and we start you off right with our first NCAA Basketball total of the season. As usual, we find that the total for a televised Saturday afternoon game is way inflated. The linesmakers just got fooled here, guys – they’re looking at the big names of the schools, not the facts, when they make their lines. We’re taking the under for the Duke – Maryland game. Maryland’s game plan will be to keep it close with tough defense and to try to stay in the game until the last few minutes, then steal one at the end. Duke knows their offense is rolling, but the Big Dance is won with defense too. This weekend’s a good place to get that in order. The last time they played, Duke won 76-52 in a blowout. People playing the over want 30 more points out of these teams? Unlikely, especially when you consider the rut the Terps have been in lately. **Play the Under.**

In NBA action, we love the Memphis Grizzlies against the LA Clippers tonight. The Grizz are 0-3 so far on a six-game roadtrip, and Coach Fratello will right the ship tonight against the Clippers. In their last eight against the Clips, the Grizzlies are 7-1, and have won the last four in LA. Clippers are playing the first home game after a road trip, which is never easy, particularly since they’ve played their last 12 games in different cities! We’re going with the series history and the schedule for this one. **Play Memphis, ATS.**

The Vancouver Canucks are this week’s call for the **Puckline Pounding** – they had an inexcusable loss to St. Louis two nights ago, and Coach Marc Crawford will have been riding them hard since. They go up against the Anaheim Ducks, who now have former Canuck-GM Brian Burke at the helm. This will provide extra emotional incentive to play hard, and combined with their desire to alleviate the pain of the St. Louis loss, we’re expecting a two-goal win. The Ducks looked sluggish in their 3-1 loss to Calgary on Wednesday, and we’re expecting they don’t turn things around tonight. **Play Vancouver on the Puckline.**

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