

Free Picks – June 23rd Weekend

NHL picks finished the season on a **6-0 tear**, as Bradley Young and Chad Warren from NHLTopPicks.com came through in the clutch with their correct analysis of the Edmonton-Carolina series, picking the Under in Game Six of the Stanley Cup Finals. These experts, along with James Lovett, did not miss a pick for a month and a half to close out the year! They finished the playoffs at 6-1, for 86% – a fantastic winning percentage by any standards. Our NBA Playoff Picks finished with a bang as well, as we correctly identified one of the two games of the Finals to go Over the total. This week we're back for more World Cup action, we'll sound off with another MLB side, and Gary Wright of NFLTopPicks.com has offered a bonus CFL play!

We're back on the pitch with another World Cup play. The Saudi Arabia – Spain game means basically nothing for either team. Spain has essentially clinched first place in their group, while Saudi Arabia has nothing to play for, and will go home just happy to have made it this far. Since Spain is guaranteed a berth in the next round, many starters will be rested in favor of younger players with something to prove. As these newcomers hope to impress their coach and win a spot on the starting XI, we will see much more motivation from them, and Spain should coast to an easy victory. Spain's B team is way above Saudi Arabia, and a motivated B-side? Shouldn't be a problem here. **Play Spain, -1.5 / -150 (line may vary depending on your book).**

Jake Peavy put up a solid start for the San Diego Padres last time out, but his team couldn't come through for him, generating only two runs in a 3-2 loss to Anaheim. Peavy will finally pick up the win he deserves tonight, as the Padres get back at the Seattle Mariners in San Diego. Although the M's swept the Friars back in May, it was at their home field – Seattle remains well below .500 on the road this season. The Padres, however, will be pumped up after going 4-2 on a road trip through LA and Texas, crunching out 48 hits over the last four games. Peavy has been stellar against the Mariners, going 4-0 with a 1.69 ERA. No one on the Mariners squad seems to be able to figure him out. Peavy is getting on track after some rough outings early in the year – in his last two starts (spanning 13 IP), he's K'd 17. He's had a full five days rest, and will be looking to reach back and throw smoke by the stunned Mariners. Gil Meche, the Mariners' starter, has been less than spectacular. Yes, he's 3-0 with a 1.71 ERA over his last three, and this has inflated the Mariners' line, but remember that he's struggled on the road this season, with just 2 Ws in 7 starts. Over the course of his career, Meche has a road ERA that is nearly two runs higher than his home ERA. Finally, this game will have a slight emotional edge for the Padres, as they will seek to give Peavy the win he deserved but did not receive last outing. They'll be playing extra hard in support of their ace, and will come through on Friday. **Play San Diego.**

Hi folks, Gary Wright here from NFLTopPicks. My complimentary CFL selection has the Toronto Argonauts covering as 1.5 point favorites against the Winnipeg Blue Bombers on Friday night, in Winnipeg. This line has probably overvalued the Argo's loss of QB Damon Allen, and while losing the league's reigning Outstanding Player would normally be huge, it appears that backup Spergon Wynn will ably pick up the slack.

Wynn completed 18-of-28 passes for 224 yards, with two TDs and one interception. However, that pick was only his *second* in 127 – **that’s right, 127** – pass attempts! Furthermore, Wynn can run the ball, which is something Allen is lacking as he ages. Last but not least, Wynn is a former Blue Bomber! You can bet – and we suggest you **DO** bet – that Wynn will want to step his game up a notch against his former squad. Combine these three factors with Ricky Williams’ continued development as he learns the Canadian game, and Toronto should be in good shape. Also, Winnipeg’s defense looked awful last week, giving up 27 points in a loss to Montreal, including a whopping 20 in the fourth quarter. This suggests to us that once the team gives up a big score, they are liable to get discouraged and potentially open the floodgates for more damage. **Play Toronto, -1.5**

This week, the ParlayPick crew are utilizing another of their favorite strategies and taking a situational dog and parlaying it with a “sure thing” winner for excellent overall odds.

The dog in this situation is the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, at home in interleague play against the Atlanta Braves. Not much of a decision here, as the Braves have dropped 10 in a row, yet still somehow find themselves... favored? That, folks, is the reputation of John Smoltz, the Braves’ starter, versus the reputation of Casey Fossum, the D-Rays starter. Never mind, apparently, that Smoltz has a 4.05 ERA in his last three, over which the team has gone 0-3, losing 10-7 to Boston in his last outing, or that the D-Rays are 2-1 in Fossum’s last three starts, losing only to Detroit, the best team in the majors. The D-Rays have won their last three, and six of their last eight. Yet because of their starting pitcher’s reputation, they are the favorites. We’ll take advantage, and bet against a team that can’t do anything right lately, siding instead with an underrated team who is putting together a bit of a tear, and is actually a *winning* team at home. **Play Tampa Bay.**

Easy call here, as we take Johan Santana and the Twins over the Chicago Cubs who start the relatively unheard-of Carlos Marmol, who gave up nine runs in six innings in his last outing against the Detroit Tigers. Santana has really hit a groove in his last three – the team is 3-0, and his ERA is an awesome 1.35 over that span. Chicago, on the other hand, is just 2-7 in their last nine, whereas Minny is 9-1 in their previous 10. In interleague play, Chicago has struggled, going 5-11 in their last 16. Minnesota has been playing great at home (21-10), whereas conversely, Chicago’s struggled on the road (16-23). **Play Minnesota.**

→ **Parlay the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and the Minnesota Twins.**

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