

Free Picks – June 9th Weekend

YET AGAIN we can report a weekend of winners in straight wagers – our **EIGHTH** in a row! That’s right, folks - for the last **two months**, we’ve done nothing but win, with minimum straight-wager return rates of 66% each week! Capitalize on our **INCREDIBLE** streak today!

In **WORLD CUP** action, we’re proud to present our first play of this year’s tournament, and we recommend you take the Netherlands against Serbia and Montenegro. The Netherlands are considered a dark horse candidate to win this year’s World Cup, and led by striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, (one of the most talented players in the world), they’ll look to get their 2006 campaign off to a hot start when they take on the upstarts from the Balkans on Sunday. Placed in the “Group of Death” with the Ivory Coast, Serbia and Montenegro, and powerhouses Argentina, the Flying Dutchmen will need all the help they can get, and that includes beating the teams that they’re supposed to beat. Look for an inspired, emotional effort from the Orangemen on Sunday. **Play the Netherlands to Win.**

We know the Edmonton Oilers are down, but in our view, they are far from out, although losing goalie Dwayne Roloson was a huge blow. However, after blowing a 3-0 lead in Game 1 and losing an embarrassing 5-0 decision on Wednesday, the Oilers will bounce back tonight and play with a lot of pride in front of the home crowd. Tonight marks the first Stanley Cup game in Edmonton in 15 years, and the home team will want to do it justice. Home ice has been extremely valuable to both Carolina and Edmonton, as each team has a potent home crowd. Let’s not forget the extensive travel from the East Coast all the way to Western Canada. That will work against Carolina here, and combined with Edmonton’s emotional and motivated effort, we’re picking an Oilers straight-up win. **Play the Edmonton Oilers.**

It’s hard to understand why the NBA playoff format is one way through the first three rounds of the playoffs, then changes for the Finals. It’s gone 2-2-1-1-1 up until now, but for some reason, the Finals are played in a 2-3-2 format. For Dallas, a Game 2 win would be nice. It would afford them the luxury of being able to lose all three games in Miami and still return home. For Miami, a Game 2 win is **CRUCIAL**. If they lose Game 2, they return home needing a minimum of two out of three games just to stay alive, and even if they win two of three, they need to win both Game 6 and 7 in Dallas. Stealing Game 2 gives the Heat home court advantage, and the chance to close the series out at home. We’re not sure if Miami will take the SU win, but we *are* sure that they’ll fight tooth and nail for a full 48 minutes. We like that Miami is 4-0 ATS coming off a SU loss, we like the fact that they’re 5-0 ATS as underdogs of 0.5-4.5, and we *love* that after a 90-80 Game 1 defeat, Shaquille O’Neal demanded the ball more in Game 2. All this will combine to give the Heat a jumpstart in Game 2, allowing them to close the gap. **Play the Miami Heat, plus the points.**

We feel that the situation is perfect to make a play on the Toronto Blue Jays this Saturday afternoon. The Jays come into this one riding a great trend we *love* to back –

they're on a perfect 9-0 run when they have a chance to win a second straight game, following a loss. They lost to Baltimore on Thursday and beat Detroit on Friday to set up this situation. They'll send lefty Ted Lilly to the mound, which is great for the club, as Detroit is averaging just 3 RPG in day road games against southpaws. However, the Tigers have looked more like kittens lately against whoever they've been facing – they've dropped four of their last five, averaging just 4 RPG in the process. At the same time, though, the Jays are 15-8 at home against righties, rocking them for 5.83 RPG. Zach Miner, the Detroit starter, will have a tough time against a potent lineup. He was expecting to come out of the bullpen when he was called up from Triple-A earlier this season, but was forced into the rotation, and promptly got demolished by the Red Sox for 9 base runners, 2 HRs, and 3 ERs in just 4 IP. The Blue Jays are pretty threatening in their own right, and we'll back them on Saturday. **Play the Toronto Blue Jays.**

The ParlayPick gang has identified a game that falls into their special total-side parlay system – take advantage now!

Both the Seattle Mariners and the Los Angeles Angels have been swinging good lumber in recent weeks, and the fact that both teams got held up last night does not eliminate the overriding trend in this situation. Gil Meche vs. John Lackey is the kind of pitching matchup that hitters on each team dream about. The Over is a perfect 7-0 in these pitchers' last seven combined starts against tonight's opponent. That is, the Over is 4-0 in Meche's last four against LA, and 3-0 in Lackey's last three against the Mariners. On the road, Meche has put up ugly numbers – his ERA is 6.82 this season. The Over is a solid 6-1-2 in his last nine starts away from home. That number improves to 10-1-2 when he pitches and the Mariners are dogs. Lackey has been mostly an Under pitcher at home, but not lately – the Over is 5-1 in his last six starts overall. He “boasts” an ERA of over seven in his last three outings against the Mariners. Take all these facts, and combine them with two teams each hitting around .300 in their last 10 overall, and the play is clear: **Take the Over.**

The Mariners won the opening game of the series yesterday, *improving* them to 10-17 on the road this season. They're still a bad road team, folks! It doesn't get any better with Meche on the hill – as mentioned, the 6.82 road ERA isn't anything to write home about. He's walked three more batters away from home than he's struck out! John Lackey isn't as bad as his wins column (4) suggests: he's actually got a 3.06 ERA and a 1.109 WHIP, which suggests that he should have around twice the number of victories than he actually has. The Angels come at a bargain today, and as they're about to get their Cy Young winner Colon back from the DL, they are poised to go on a run. That starts today against the Mariners, a miserable road team. **Play the Los Angeles Angels.**

→**Parlay the Los Angeles Angels, and the Over in the Angels-Mariners game.**

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