

Free Picks – May 12th Weekend

Another weekend of winners are in the bag, as we went 2-3 on straight wagers for the second week in a row. Our MLB straight wagers have cashed two weeks in a row, and we follow last week's success up with another full card of winners.

The Oilers-Sharks series has been as exciting as any we've seen, but more than anything, it's featured some outstanding defensive play. Take a look at the Over/Under history between these two teams... when they played on January 19th and March 3rd, the total was at 6.5. Both games went under, so linesmakers had to move the line to 6.0 for the March 9th game. After Game 1 went Under 6.0, the total went to 5.5 for Games 2 and 3. Now, the total has moved all the way to 5.0, and it's time to respond by making a play on the Over. Any time the line shifts this dramatically, good value opens up in the opposite direction. We predict that tonight's game will feature much more end-to-end play as Edmonton seeks to avoid going back to California down 3-1. The team will be taking chances, and whether they pay off or not, the result will be more goals than we've seen so far in this series. **Play the Over.**

We're as excited as you are for Game 3 of the Pistons – Cavs series, but we were a little surprised to see a total four points higher than in Game 1. The first two games have gone "Over", but last time these teams needed 100 points in the second half to go over the total by one. The Cavs know if they want to keep these games close they need to do a better job on defense, and similarly, the Pistons will be in full lockdown mode on LeBron James, as they realize he is the key to the Cavs' hopes. This season the Cavs have played great defense at home, holding opponents to just 92.1 points per contest on 43.8% shooting. The Under has gone 25-19 in Cleveland this season, as well as 2-1 in the playoffs thus far. We all know what a great defensive team the Pistons are. Before this series the Under was 13-1 in the last 14 meetings between these teams. This is a very telling historical trend, and we're on board for Game 3. **Play the Under.**

We love the situation presented tonight in the Mets / Brewers game. Jose Lima has been forced into the Mets rotation because of the injury to Victor Zambrano, and in his only other start this season he was rocked 13-3 by the Braves. With the Royals last year, Lima put up a eye-popping 5-16 record with an ERA a shade under 7. Opponents teed off against him, hitting .314 when facing him. New York is still getting respect from the linesmakers, but their current slump (1 W in their last 4) tells us that it might be a good time to bet against them. Milwaukee's David Bush has a stellar 1.13 ERA at home, and has held opponents to just .115. In short, he's been one of the best home-field pitchers in baseball. His road numbers are terrible, and this is skewed the linesmakers' assessment of this game. We recommend taking the solid value and **Play Milwaukee Brewers.**

Many of you have written to the ParlayPick team asking how many units they recommend putting on our weekly parlays. Our staff recommends half a unit on each play; for instance, if your standard bet is \$10, we recommend \$5 on each parlay.

Although Carlos Zambrano did pitch a gem last week, we narrowly missed our parlay as the Cubs lost in 11 innings, 1-0. However, this week's two-teamer has great value and we expect to get back to our winning ways.

We're going to be playing the Dodgers tonight, with Brad Penny facing Matt Morris. Morris is on the decline, with his fastball velocity dropping steadily over the past four seasons. In the past couple years we've seen a good first half from Morris followed by a steep drop off – this season, the drop off has come early, as the Giants have lost his last five starts and his ERA is over 8 in those games. Brad Penny has an ERA under 3 in his seven starts this season, and has dominated San Francisco in the last five times they've played. Take the Dodgers, with Penny and Morris as listed pitchers.

It's a battle of bottom feeders as the Pirates host the Marlins on Friday night. The Pirates offense has shown some spark, and a few trends work in the Pirates' favor here. The Marlins are just 1-9 in their last 10 games in Pittsburgh, and after an emotional loss followed by a rainout last night, the Pirates will be well rested and ready to do battle against a terrible Marlins team.

→Parlay the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

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