

Free Picks – May 19th Weekend

The hot streak continues, as for the **fourth week in a row** we hit above 66% of our straight wagers, and our **fifth consecutive week** in which we turned a profit (although our straight wagers went just 1-2 on April 14th, our parlay hit, making it overall a profitable week).

Last week trumped them all, however, as we bashed our way to a **PERFECT WEEKEND** – 3-0 in straight wagers, PLUS a two-team parlay! The Oilers-Sharks game went Over, the Pistons-Cavs game went Under, the Brewers took down the Mets, and the Pittsburgh Pirates and the L.A. Dodgers won thrillers to seal the deal. **We are now on a 75% run in the last MONTH, and have hit 60% of our Parlays in the last five weeks.**

In NBA action, the San Antonio Spurs have their backs against the wall, and recently got a huge boost when it was revealed that Jason Terry of the Mavericks will be suspended for Game 6 for punching Michael Finley. The loss of one of the Mavs starters, combined with what appears to be the end of a Manu Ginobili slump (18 pts, 5 rbs, 4 ast) leads us to believe that the Spurs will put together one of their top efforts of the season, and force a Game 7. Tim Duncan has been playing some of the best basketball of his life, hitting his first 12 shots in Game 6 en route to 36 pts and 12 rbs. We have been stunned by the lack of inside presence shown by the Mavericks. The Dallas big men have been getting into foul trouble frequently, and have been unable to compete with Duncan's strength and skill. Finally, we are not convinced that Dallas can close out big games. The Spurs are still the champions, after all, and we think that they're not finished yet. **Play San Antonio on the Moneyline.**

We are going to buck the trend and take the underdog Edmonton Oilers for a straight up win. GoSportsBet has the Oilers at +140, which we feel is excellent value for a team that comes into this game with the recent emotional high of disposing with the San Jose Sharks, and have played excellent hockey against these not-so-Mighty Ducks, winning 9 of the past 10 games. In their past 27 meetings, the Oilers are 20-6-1. Finally, we suspect that particularly early in the game, the Ducks may show signs of rust following a week-long layoff. It is tough to get back into the playoff mentality, and this may favor an Oilers team fresh off a big win and ready to steal another. This will be a hard-fought game, but we simply cannot pass up this underdog value on a team that has absolutely dominated this head-to-head matchup in recent years. **Play the Edmonton Oilers.**

Interleague play begins on Friday, and we're not thrilled with the Florida Marlins, who crawl into Tampa Bay having lost four in a row to the Braves. Brian Moehler won in his last time out for the Fish, but it was against the Pirates – Moehler is still 1-2 with a disgusting 8.84 ERA on the road this year. When the Marlins do win, it's generally because they put up a TON of runs, not because of their defense. However, we're confident that D-Rays starter Casey Fossum will keep Florida in check. His last three outings have all counted as "quality starts" (3 ER or less in at least 6.0 IP), and although he lost each of those games, keep in mind that they were against the Red Sox, the

Yankees, and the Blue Jays – three of the top offensive units in the entire majors. Florida is just 2-8 (20%) in Game 1 of a series following a loss this season, and we're betting that trend continues on Friday. **Play Tampa Bay.**

It's gotta be tough for the Royals, who aren't even the favorite team in their own state. As the St. Louis Cardinals travel to Kansas City on I 70 tonight, we're expecting to see a lot of Cardinals Red in the stands, which should minimize any home field advantage from the crowd. St. Louis sends 2006 Cy Young winner Chris Carpenter to the hill against Mark Redman, who is best known for... nothing. The Cardinals have dominated this interleague matchup in the past, winning 7 of the last 8 meetings, dating back to 2003. Furthermore, the Cards are 41-13 in their last 54 Friday night games. Take St. Louis.

We like the Detroit Tigers' chances to pick up their eighth win in a row behind emerging stud Jeremy Bonderman. He has been the catalyst behind Detroit's impressive 27-13 record, with the Tigers taking four of his last five starts to the bank. Over that span he has put up an impressive 2.52 ERA, and he'll be facing a Reds squad that has cooled off considerably after a hot start. Cincinnati will send Brandon Claussen to the mound, and the Tigers will likely be licking their teeth: Claussen is 0-3 on the road with a 9.20 ERA, and he's let 27 men get on base in only 14.2 innings! Let's remember that the Tigers are 8-1 against southpaws this season. Finally, the Tigers rank 6th in batting average in the majors, while the Reds are a weak 21st in the same category. Take Detroit.

→Parlay the St. Louis Cardinals and the Detroit Tigers.

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