

Free Tips and Analysis – October 7th Weekend

After a **perfect 3-0** weekend, we're back with more picks from across the board in three different areas. Here's a recap of last week's plays: we told you that the Denver Broncos and the Kansas City Chiefs would go under the total. We told you that North Carolina would make mincemeat out of Utah. Finally, in baseball action, we told you to play Philadelphia as a small favorite against Livan Hernandez and the Washington Nationals. Our readers took all three of these plays **right to the bank!**

This week we love the Houston Texans at home against the Tennessee Titans. They came up short against the still-perfect Bengals last week, but they looked miles better than they had in previous starts. The Titans, on the other hand, got bent over and spanked like small children by Peyton Manning and the Colts, and we're not sure that this team has it in them to come back after a lashing like that. Houston's running game looked healthy against the Bengals, at a hostile field, no less. What struck us most was the positive outlook expressed by many Texans after the loss, especially David Carr, who said that he felt the tide was beginning to turn. Close losses can break teams, but they can also make them, when they strengthen a team's resolve and that team takes the loss as a challenge and responds the next week. We think the Texans will do just that.

Finally, recent history backs us up here: the Texans have taken the last three meetings between these two teams against the spread, most recently with their 10-point home win last November. We say the trend will continue. **Take Houston.**

Turning to the college game, we love Arizona State at home against the Oregon Ducks. They play the second of back-to-back road games against a Division opponent, and ASU is a monster 8-2 ATS during the last ten times these teams have faced off, including the last four in a row, all played at Arizona! ASU took #1 USC right down to the wire last week. The straight up winner in this series is 20-3 ATS, and we look for the home team to do both this week. **Take Arizona.**

Call us crazy, but we're going with the San Diego Padres as straight up winners in Game 3. Say what you want about the team – they don't belong in the playoffs, they didn't stand a chance against St. Louis, whatever. These guys are a major-league ball club and they are playing for nothing but pride in front of their home fans. Woody Williams takes the hill against his former team with a 3-1 career post-season record, and comes off a stellar seven-inning outing against the Dodgers where he gave up just one run. Matt Morris, on the other hand, is 1-5 all-time in the post-season, hasn't won since August 25th, and got shelled by the Cincinnati Reds for five runs in his last outing. Look for the Padres to take Game 3 at home, and **Play San Diego.**

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