

## Free Picks – September 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend

We're into a new month, and like you, are thrilled about the start of college football season and of course the NFL. Be sure to check out the promotion from GoSportsBet below, where our players can get part of their wager rebated if they play these picks at GoSportsBet and they lose.

Both West Virginia and Syracuse are teams considered to be in "rebuilding" years – this early in the season, we wouldn't be shocked if each team's offense is a little sluggish. West Virginia has lost 14 starters from 2004, half of those offensive players, and will rely predominantly on players who have not yet felt the weight of both school's expectations as full-time starters. Brandon Miles, the most experienced receiver for West Virginia, caught just six passes for 138 yards in 2004. Expect them to look for RB Jason Colsan to lead the way on Sunday.

Greg Robinson has taken the helm at Syracuse with a stated commitment to improving that team's defensive reputation. Robinson will also act as the defensive play caller, and will have a huge interest during the first game in wanting to make sure that his teachings have had some effect on the players during camp. Syracuse was not known for their passing game last season, ranking a lowly 100<sup>th</sup> in the country in passing yards. They, too, will look to attack on the ground. **Take the Under.**

The USC Trojans visit Hawaii for a game that ESPN's Dan Shanoff jokingly called a "glorified recruiting trip" for USC – they're in Hawaii as much for the beaches as they are for the game! USC will win the game, and handily. However, the spread is just too high in this one – the Trojans did not win by 35 points on the road until the Orange Bowl last season, and three of the times they did at home were for games with high emotional significance: Joint Forces Day (against a weak Colorado State squad), Homecoming, and their Hall of Fame Presentation Day.

Expect USC to look to put some points on the board early, then to rest the starters and let the second-string guys see some playing time. USC will be good enough sports not to completely embarrass Hawaii at home, they'll win the game comfortably, and everyone will go sip those fruity drinks with little umbrellas in them. The point spread is just too high though for a season-opening game with little emotional significance. **Take Hawaii, plus the points.**

GoSportsBet continues the promotion they launched last week for our subscribers where if you play these weekly picks at their site and lose, they will give you a partial rebate of your wager. Check out <http://www.gosportsbet.com/promos/specials/insiders5.php> for more info.

As always, these tips are merely suggestions and are meant for entertainment purposes.