

Free Picks – September 8th Weekend

Although last week's NFL Preseason Pick suffered a rare loss, Tim Spears and his team were **bang on** with their blowout picks of Nebraska and Wyoming in their weekly parlay, scoring big winnings with this high-odds payout. In addition, Aaron Smith stacked cash with his perfect analysis of his weekly baseball selection, picking the Dodgers as short favorites.

This week, changes in the NCAA's football regulations open up an excellent opportunity to profit. Most of the focus has been on the impact the new rules will have on Totals, but there are some fantastic opportunities to work with sides as well. In brief, the clock now starts when the official sets the ball on every possession, not at the first offensive snap. This means that the game will essentially go by faster, as teams will have up to 24 seconds each possession before they must begin play. Let's assume each team averages 10 or 11 possessions. This translates to about four minutes of real game time. In the college game, we see huge favorites and underdogs that we would never see in the NFL. In a situation where one team is clearly overmatched, the favorites have a better chance of running up the score the longer they are on the field. Conversely, the huge underdogs have a better chance of keeping the game close if the game is shorter. New rule changes have quite clearly made the game shorter. We're betting that neither FSU coach Bobby Bowden nor Troy coach Larry Blakeney would mind shortening this game either. FSU enters this one off an emotionally-draining win at Miami on Monday, and looking ahead to a major A.C.C. revenge match against Clemson next Saturday. Florida State will take care of business here, but will want to do so with minimum exertion and with everyone staying fresh and healthy. That makes it perhaps the flattest game on the schedule for FSU, and perhaps the biggest opportunity for Blakeney and the Trojans. You can be sure that they will be giving it their all – 28 players on the team hail from Florida, and they will be extra motivated against their state's favored team. Finally, the Seminole offense should do enough to win, but a price in the -30 range is simply too steep. Florida State will pick up the dull win, but Troy will do enough to keep it close. **Play Troy ATS.**

In NFL Action this week, we're going to take a trusty Under play in the Chicago / Green Bay match-up. The Bears are still the best defense in the league, but we're not sold on their shaky offense. We assume Brett Favre – coming off a summer in which he got healthy and conditioned – will not make major mistakes, and as a result, this one will stay well under the posted total of 35. Both teams are strong "Under" teams, with the Under having gone 9-3-1 in Chicago's last 13 on grass, and 7-2-0 in Green Bay's last 9 on grass. We're not convinced that the Bears will do enough to take the game by more than a field goal in a hostile Wisconsin environment in the first game of this young season, but we will happily take the money with the Under. **Play the Under.**

This week, Tim Spears and the ParlayPick team return to the scene of their latest sports book robbery – a two-team NCAA Football Parlay!

The Oklahoma Sooners won last week over UAB, as expected, but they turned the ball over far too many times and allowed the Blazers to stick around far longer than they should have. Oklahoma will look to crack down on the laziness that nearly caught up to them in this week's tilt with Washington. Luckily for the Sooners, the Huskies haven't been able to get their offense functioning with any sort of efficiency, and points have been hard to come by as a result. If we ignore their season-opening win against San Jose State, the Huskies have been limited to 24 or less in 9 of their past 11, and 17 of their past 20, going back two seasons. Against this Sooners defense? Not much will change. Washington's run defense did play very well against San Jose, and that effort will need to be repeated against Oklahoma's dangerous Adrian Peterson. We're confident that they will, but we're more confident that the Oklahoma defense will make a statement. **Play the Under.**

Colorado lost to Div 1-AA Montana State this past Saturday, and many have called it one of – if not *the* – worst loss in program history. Many have already written off their season, but we see a unique opportunity for profit here. Colorado State is hurting, literally: RB Kyle Bell is out for the season with a torn ACL, and his replacement, Gartrell Johnson, is averaging 1.9 yards per carry after running for 34 yards on 18 carries against 1-AA Weber State. Colorado's defense should have no problem limiting Johnson's effectiveness. Starting C Tim Walter is expected to miss several weeks with a sprained knee, and freshman Brian Lepak will start in his place. His inexperience could play a major role. Finally, Colorado will counter with experienced runners Charles and Mell Holiday, and bring a ground game to the table that could explode for major gains. With several Buffaloes returning this week, Colorado will be healthier and motivated to show the world that they are not as bad as they looked last week. Colorado State is simply overmatched in this one. **Play Colorado Buffaloes.**

→ Parlay the Under in Oklahoma / Washington and the Colorado Buffaloes.

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