

## Free Tips – September 9<sup>th</sup> Weekend

It's here, football fans! The season has *finally* begun! Thursday's Oakland-New England match-up was action packed, and we know you'll be glued to the screen for all the excitement this weekend.

The Bengals head to Cleveland this week ready for a break out year on offense. Carson Palmer has finally started to live up to expectations, and while favorite target Chad Johnson is going to get looks, some new faces have arrived to spice up the Cincinnati offense. Don't forget, the Browns rush defense ranked dead last in '04.

On the other side of the ball, Cincinnati can be considered mediocre at best. They didn't make any huge changes over the off-season, and failed to impress during the pre-season. We can expect much the same thing this season. Look for both teams to get on the board early and send this one over the total quickly. **Take the Over.**

We turn to the college game for our other pick this week. Mississippi State heads to Auburn to visit the Tigers, who come off an opening loss to Georgia Tech. This week they play an inferior team and will come out with something to prove. Expect them to get the job done against the visiting team. Practices this week will have been hard, the coaching staff will have dropped more than a few profanities, and the Auburn players will come into this game knowing their playing time is on the line and it's time to step up.

Mississippi State is 0-12 straight up and 2-10 against the spread on the SEC road in the last four seasons, with every loss by at least 12 points. This team has not been within this spread in any conference road match up for the past three years.

The oddsmakers have given Auburn way too much of a crutch based on their loss to Georgia Tech. The favorite is angry in this one, and in a matchup where the chalk is angry, has motivation to play well, and can put up points at will, they usually do. **Take Auburn.**

As always, these picks are meant purely for entertainment purposes.