



## Summer Lovin' –

### Making the NFL Preseason Profitable

#### Part 2 of 2

By Hansel Wei

In the first part of this article, I talked about knowing your players and knowing your coaches, and how these two edges can go a long way towards helping you win money betting on the NFL preseason. Now, I'm going to address how knowing your teams as a unit and being aware of certain situations further boost your preseason arsenal.

**Know Your Teams.** It's very easy to keep track of how every team's training camp is going, thanks to the internet. In fact, with a few clicks of the mouse, you can read newspaper articles written that same day from every NFL city about their local team. Use these resources to keep track of what is going on in camp, which players are getting the majority of the snaps in practice, who is injured (and how seriously), and which players have been performing well. The savvy bettor, for instance, would have known that Terrell Owens re-aggravated his hamstring last week, and was not going to play this weekend. The Cleveland Browns have an abundance of youth at quarterback, but reports out of practice last week were that none of them had been playing very well in practice. As a result, the Browns were just three-point home favorites against a weak Detroit Lions team.

**Know Your Situations.** I talked in the first part of this article about coaches, and how certain situations—new coach coming to a losing team, preseason home opener after one or two road losses, etc—can inspire individuals or coaches. However, there are other situations that can affect an entire unit. Be aware of the travel time involved in getting to preseason games. This is often overlooked, but can make the difference in games, especially where the importance of the game might be lower than in the regular season. Home teams have a wealth of advantages, including being able to practice at home, being with their family and friends, sleeping in their own beds, and not having to deal with airport traffic, getting to and from hotels, making flights on time, and so on. Last season, the New Orleans Saints were forced to essentially play 16 games on the road. Not surprisingly, they sputtered from start to finish, winning just 3 games. In the preseason, the travel time factor counts more than ever, particularly since exhibition games are often held at non-NFL sites. A year ago, the Indianapolis Colts played their first preseason game in Tokyo, Japan! After that game overseas, the Colts went 0-4 SU and ATS, and it is my suspicion that jetlag and lingering fatigue were considerable factors.

I also find that home field advantage is amplified in the preseason. In exhibition play, the number one goal for every road team is to get out of town injury-free. Home teams, however, have the added incentive of wanting to get their local fans excited about the season. This is particularly the case when a team is coming off a losing season or preseason games lost on the road. This was the case in Minnesota this week, where the visiting Baltimore Ravens put up just 7 points en route to a 30-7 loss to the Vikings, who were fired up in front of their hometown supporters.

The NFL preseason is an excellent chance to evaluate teams with a view towards the regular season, but it's also a great opportunity to make a nice profit by itself. Look for plays that fit some of the situations described above, and wager on games where one team clearly has more of a desire to win *that game* – not “a lot” of games during the season, and not just a vague desire “to win,” but rather, a pressing urge to win *this game* – right here, right now. Your wallet will feel heavier as a result.

**Until next time, do yourself a favor...**

**Keep Doing Things Hansel's Wei.**