

Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter

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College & Pro Football Best Bets Newsletter

Dennis Stagliano's Award Winning Football Newsletter

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Stanley threw for 5 TD's & Iowa delivered a fatal blow to the Buckeyes' playoff hopes.

CFB PICKS 32-17-1 65% DOG PICKS 7-3 70% ATS MORE PICKS & ANALYSIS

College Football Recap

Ohio State-Iowa was expected to be a blowout, with the line moving to 21 by kickoff. And it turned out to be a blowout, only not the way Vegas expected. The Hawkeyes rose to the occasion, while the Buckeyes came out flat, and Iowa rolled up a 55-24 win to effectively end Ohio State's playoff hopes. The 'over' hit for the sixth consecutive game for the Buckeyes, but this time it was due to a lack of defense and not their high-flying offense. ... Miami-Florida proved they're for real, humbling Virginia Tech by a 28-10 score. It was the first cover for the Canes in four games since their miraculous comeback win at Florida State back on Oct. 7. The 'under' has hit in six in a row for Miami, and seven of eight overall.

-- Alabama won a defensive battle against visiting Louisiana State, 24-10. The Tide slipped to 1-3 ATS over the past four outings, while the 'under' is now 3-1 over their past four. Since that wake-up call against Troy, the Tigers are 3-1 SU/ATS.

-- Washington kept its faint playoff hopes alive with a 38-3 beating of Oregon. The Huskies have outscored the Ducks 108-24 over the past two meetings. The Huskies improved to 5-1 ATS over their past six games, while the 'under' is also 5-1 over the same stretch. Next up is an important Friday date with Stanford.

-- Southern California dealt Arizona bettors a bitter pill to swallow. The Trojans were in control of the game, up 28-6, but Arizona stormed back and tied the game 35-35. Down 42-35, the Wildcats were moving the ball, but an interception thwarted their chance to tie the game, giving USC great field position. USC went on to score and spoil what would have been a nice comeback cover for the Wildcats.

-- Memphis posted a 41-14 victory at Tulsa on Friday night. The Tigers led just 21-14 at half, but took over in the second half for the cover. Memphis has covered three in a row, and they're 4-0-1 ATS over the past five outings. They're also 3-0 ATS over their past three games on the road.

-- Clemson edged North Carolina State 38-31, as the Wolfpack came up just short for the second consecutive season against the defending champs. After opening 1-4 ATS over the first five games, N.C. State is 3-1 ATS over the past four outings. The Tigers slipped to 0-3-1 ATS over their past four outings. ... Florida State topped Syracuse for what is a rare win these days in Tallahassee. The Seminoles have still not covered this season, too, going 0-6-2 ATS overall. The 'under' is 7-1 in eight tries for the 'Noles.

-- Wisconsin is the last great hope for the Big Ten in the chase for a playoff spot with Ohio State and Penn State each suffering a second loss. The Badgers rolled up a 45-17 win at Indiana to move to 9-0 SU. Oddly enough, the Badgers have alternated covers and non-covers in every game this season. Does that mean a cover for the Hawkeyes next week in Madison? ... Northwestern needed overtime for the third consecutive weekend, and they pulled off a third straight win in the extra session to become bowl eligible. The Wildcats are now 4-0 ATS over the past four outings, and 6-1 ATS over their past seven.

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-- Baylor posted its first win of the season, topping Kansas 38-9 in Lawrence. The Bears entered the game as a seven-point favorite despite the fact they were 0-8 SU. ... In Bedlam in Stillwater, the scoreboard operator has blisters on his fingers after working the board. Oklahoma outlasted Oklahoma State by a 62-52 count, easily cashing the 'over' (76). Believe it or not, there was a scoreless quarter in this game, as the Cowboys failed to put up any points in the third quarter.

-- UCLA's QB Josh Rosen didn't make the trip to Salt Lake City due to injury, and the Bruins offense struggled on Friday night at Rice-Eccles. Utah blasted the Bruins 48-17 to snuff out a four-game losing skid and move within one game of earning bowl eligibility. ... California shook off a pesky Oregon State by a 37-23 score. Like the Utes, the Bears are within one game of punching their ticket to the postseason. The Bears are 3-1 ATS over the past four games, and the 'over' has hit in three in a row.

-- It was the annual SEC vs. cupcakes weekend for some schools, but oddly enough in the four SEC vs. non-conference teams, only Tennessee and Vanderbilt picked up wins and covers. Arkansas needed late heroics to push aside Coastal Carolina, 39-38. The Chanticleers led 38-32 until the Razorbacks scored the game-winning touchdown and all-important extra point with 1:55 to go. ... South Carolina fell at Georgia 24-10, but they improved to 3-0-2 ATS over the past five outings.

-- Road teams went 4-2 SU in the American Athletic Conference this weekend, but it was home teams posting a 4-2 ATS mark. Only the aforementioned Memphis and Cincinnati covered away from home. ... After opening 5-0 ATS, UCF slipped to 0-2-1 ATS over the past three outings. They remain 8-0 SU and a candidate for the Group of Five New Year's Bowl Game, etc. ... Houston belted visiting East Carolina, covering for the second straight outing. It is the first time the Cougars have covered back-to-back games since Sept. 9-16, the first two games of the regular season.

-- Florida Atlantic moved to 5-0 in the conference for the first time in school history, topping Marshall 30-25. ... FAU isn't the only surprise C-USA team in South Florida, as Florida International keeps winning, too. The Golden Panthers and visiting Texas-San Antonio were scoreless midway through the third quarter. FIU proceeded to win 14-7 to improve to 6-2 SU, while covering for the third straight outing. ... Charlotte-Old Dominion was the lowest scoring game in FBS this season, as the Monarchs outlasted the 49ers 6-0. ODU won, but slipped to 1-5 ATS over the past six outings.

-- UNLV won for the second straight outing, pushing aside Hawaii 31-23. They're 6-2 ATS over the past eight outings. ... Wyoming picked up a 16-13 win at home against Colorado State as four-point 'dogs, improving to 6-0 ATS over the past six outings. The 'under' has also cashed in three straight for the Cowboys. ... New Mexico's power outage on offense continued, as they've scored just 9.3 PPG over the past four outings. They're 1-3 ATS over the past four games, and it's no surprise the 'under' is a perfect 4-0.

-- In Sun Belt, Fun Belt action, New Mexico State posted a 45-35 road win and cover as nine-point favorites at Texas State. The Aggies are an impressive 4-1-1 ATS in six road outings this season. ... If you like 'over' results, remember Louisiana-Monroe. They picked up a 52-45 win over Appalachian State, as the over improved to 6-1 over the past seven, and 7-2 in nine games overall this season.

-- The weekend kicked off with one of the ugliest bad beats in recent memory. FAU (-6.5) held a 30-23 lead with just a little over two minutes left while holding the ball. Marshall has no timeouts left, either. When it came to fourth down with the Owls inside their own 20 yard line, head coach Lane Kiffin instructed his punter to run through the back of the end zone for a safety. No problem, as the Owls still won the game and became bowl eligible. However, that safety changed the side from the favorite cashing, to the underdog, with just :08 remaining in regulation. OUCH.

-- Northwestern scored a touchdown to force overtime in Lincoln, tying the game at 24 with a total of 55. The Wildcats scored a touchdown to start OT, and the Cornhuskers were unable to answer. The game was the only total push of the weekend, but if not for overtime it would have been an 'under' results.

-- 'Under' (49.5) bettors in Wisconsin-Indiana were OK with just 41 points on the board through three quarters. Even with a touchdown at the 10-minute mark, the under was still technically OK. However, there were two touchdowns in the final 5:19 to push the total well over.

-- Side bettors of Illinois (+14) felt good, down just 16-10 with 3:47 to go in the third quarter, and the Boilermakers down to their second-string QB due to an earlier injury. However, backup Elijah Sindelar rallied the team for 13 late points to dash the hopes of Illini bettors late.

-- Most bettors in Florida-Missouri had a line of 61.5, or even 61, which turned out to be OK. Some 'under' bettors had 60.5, and that's no bueno. The Tigers booted a meaningless field goal with :45 left in regulation, at least meaningless to the side, as Mizzou won 45-16. But that field goal changed a sure 'under' into an 'over' for some.

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PRES COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

PITTSBURGH - 8.5 Over North Carolina By 15

The Panthers seem to have found their stride just a bit. They were 9.5-point dogs to Duke 3 weeks ago and were only just barely favorites against UVA the following week. Yet both games were won and won rather convincingly. These results are a far cry from a team that was beaten by 19 by Penn St, 38 by Oklahoma St, 18 by Georgia Tech and 18 by N.C. State.

The difference here is clearly the play of Darrin Hall. All of a sudden, Hall has taken over this backfield these last two games, running the ball 49 times for 365 yards and four touchdowns. Prior to this, Qadree Ollison and Quadree Henderson had been the primary ball carriers, though neither man has been anywhere near effective.

The Tar Heels have had a frustrating season. This is a team that has surrendered at least 47 points on two separate occasions against good, yet still middling ACC teams (Louisville and Virginia Tech) and only has a win to show for its work this season over Old Dominion.

After losing 24-19 to Miami last week, the Heels really looked visually defeated. It was a game that was there for the taking against a top-10 team, and one has to wonder if Larry Fedora can keep this squad up for the rest of the year knowing that there aren't any more truly big games and no hope to get to a bowl game.

We're not even going to try to run off the whole list of injuries the Tar Heels have had to deal with this year. A week and a half ago against Miami, Fedora's crew played without 21 scholarship players who were out due to various injuries. Sixteen of the 21 are out for the season. But we expect today's line drop was based on the Panthers QB Max Browne being out.

The biggest question mark right now is Chazz Surratt. The frosh hasn't been fantastic this season, but he's at least shown some signs of competency at the quarterback spot. He is averaging 7.1 yards per pass attempt and is completing 58 percent of his passes, far better numbers than what LSU transfer Brandon Harris has been able to amass. Things were so bad for the Heels that they turned the ball over to Nathan Elliott when Surratt went down against the Hurricanes. Elliott, a sophomore who really never figured to play any meaningful football at UNC in his career, went 16-for-39 for 173 yards with a touchdown and three interceptions. If Stanley has to start this game for the Tar Heels, there's no way they stick within two touchdowns of the Panthers with the way they're playing.

Pittsburgh is a team that has plenty to play for. Ben Dinucci is essentially trying to prove that he's the right choice as the starting quarterback of this team for the future, and the way the defense has come out and smothered the Dookies and Cavvies in successive games probably isn't good news for a third-string quarterback who shouldn't touch the field under much of any circumstance. Go ahead and lay the lumber with confidence. Go Panthers in this Thursday night game.

Projected Score: Pittsburgh 35, North Carolina 20

DJ COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

U.N.L.V. - 4 Over B.Y.U. by 17

UNLV has suddenly beaten Fresno St and Hawaii in consecutive games to improve to 4-5. Clearly, it's the defense that has made all the difference. In their first seven games of the season, they conceded 499 yards and 36 ppg. In these last two, they've allowed 346 yards and 19 ppg. It's hard to say that the Rebels have really put it all together yet either. Lexington Thomas hasn't even averaged five yards per carry or reached 100 yards in either of his last two games, a stunning development for one of the nation's top rushers.

The quarterback carousel in Provo is turning again. Just when it started to look like Tanner Mangum was going to have control of this offense, he went down with a torn Achilles' tendon against Fresno St and is done for the year. That means it's time for Beau Hoge to take back over again. With Mangum out, there really isn't a good option left for the BYU passing game. Hoge has completed 48.7 percent of his passes and is averaging 6.6 yards per pass attempt. Yet his numbers are sterling when compared to the stats of the other quarterbacks on this roster, Koy Detmer Jr. and Joe Critchlow.

This BYU team isn't talented enough to be able to win this game on its own. It's going to need help from the Rebels in the form of turnovers and penalties to have a shot at this upset. If the Rebels can avoid doing that to themselves, they should be in great shape.

The sportsbooks have realized UNLV's return to the bowl picture, lining it almost as a surprising 7-point favorite against Hawaii last week. That game was won as it should have been, and now comes a game that should be an even bigger slam dunk. UNLV hasn't won three games in a row since the 2013 season, and it has to see opportunity knocking in this game.

But this one really is more about BYU than it is about UNLV. The Cougars have no business being on the same field as the Rebels right now. They did score 41 points against San Jose State, but the Spartans might be the worst team in America this year. Take that out, and BYU has scored 13, 17, 10, 7, 24, 6, 13, 0 and 20 over the course of the rest of its schedule.

I have a hunch the Rebels are going to come up with a really impressive victory that will only further pour salt in a wide-open wound that has been the 2017 season for BYU. I'm going to run with the Rebels in this late Friday nighter.

Projected Score: UNLV 34, BYU 17

BAGS COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

OHIO STATE -15 Over Michigan State by 4

The Buckeyes aren't necessarily totally out of the National Championship picture, but two losses, the second of which came to a team that is now 3-3 in Big 10 play, is probably curtains on the season. Still, they control their own destiny in the Big 10 East and really have no excuses to miss out on the Rose Bowl. Motivation could be another factor, though. Urban Meyer promised that he was going to let off a "nuclear bomb" if the Buckeyes showed any sign of a letdown in practice a week after beating Penn State. Everyone said all the right things in Columbus this week heading to Iowa City, but it's clear that the team wasn't ready for the battle at hand.

Let's not take anything away from Michigan State. Sparty was able to beat Penn State last week to keep its hopes of winning the Big 10 alive. In fact, if this game is won, the Spartans will be a win over Maryland or Rutgers away from winning the division and setting up a date with Wisconsin in the Big Ten Championship Game. For all intents and purposes, Sparty has the same resume Ohio State does right now. The Buckeyes don't really have any tremendously notable wins short of the one against Penn State. Michigan State's signature victory at Michigan looks every bit as good. Both teams have a bad loss on the road (Iowa and Northwestern respectively), and both lost their first game at home to a team that would be in the College Football Playoff if it started today (Oklahoma & Notre Dame respectively).

Though these teams are nothing now like they were last year, the formula Michigan State set last year against Ohio State in a 17-16 loss in East Lansing could set the tone this year as well. L.J. Scott ran the ball 19 times for 160 yards and a touchdown against the stout Ohio State front seven. You might think that the Buckeyes would never allow that type of yardage again, but they were just gashed by Akrum Wadley and the Iowa running game. Plus, the Spartans are in much better shape under center right now with Brian Lewerke than they were with Tyler O'Connor.

All year, I questioned if Ohio State really had the ability to line up against a smash mouth team after all of the spread offenses it had gone up against. It couldn't. Now, the Buckeyes are going to have to get right back on the horse once again and do it all over again versus a much more powerful Michigan State team.

Though we think Ohio State is going to find a way to win this game, this is a lot of points given to us by the sportsbooks. The Spartans have proven they can play, and Lewerke is the difference. We wouldn't be stunned if they pull off this upset. As a matter of fact, our handicapping staff almost used this game as our underdog pick of the week.

Projected Score: Ohio State 30, Michigan State 26

SAMMY COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

WISCONSIN -11.5 Over Iowa by 21

I'm still trying to wrap my head around what I saw happen last Saturday. The Hawkeyes scored 31 unanswered points and put a whooping on a team that was the second favorite to win the National Championship before taking the field. Now the question: Is Iowa really that good, or was this a case of a team coming to Kinnick Stadium and just getting whipped the day after ultimately posting a huge comeback in its biggest game of the year? Nate Stanley is suddenly turning into a superstar at Iowa. He's just a sophomore, but after tossing five touchdowns against one of the best defenses in America, he has 22 touchdowns against just four picks this year. No, Stanley isn't winning a Heisman Trophy any time in the near future, but he's quickly turning into one of the best quarterbacks in the Big Ten.

No one likes the fact that Wisconsin hasn't played much of anyone this year, but the entire city of Madison doesn't get one rat's butt about it. The Badgers are 9-0 and have beaten the teams on their schedule handily. Their only close game was a 17-9 win over Purdue here at home, and even that game was never ultimately a game in peril. Every time I think Whisky is going to be up against it, the team just comes out and stomps on someone. Take last week's 45-17 win over Indiana, for example. That was the closest point spread of the year in a Badgers game, and they won 45-17 without any challenge.

Iowa's Akrum Wadley rushed the ball 20 times for 118 yards while James Butler had 10 rushes for 74 yards. The Hawkeyes had three carries for at least 30 yards, and all of them came straight off tackle. Stanley was sacked just once, and that came in the third quarter when this game was firmly put out of reach.

The Wisconsin front seven isn't being respected at this point, but it's still one of the best in America. Garret Dooley and Alec James are two of the better pass rushers in the Big Ten at this point, and the matchup between these two and Wirfs and Jackson could be the one that ultimately decides this game.

Iowa is going to be a hotter team this week than it would have been had the Buckeyes ultimately not been pushovers. That said, we think that's going to create an opportunity for betting on Wisconsin. The Badgers are comfortable favorites in this game, but I think they should be a lot bigger favorites in this one than they are. Alex Hornibrook is playing some tremendous football at the quarterback position, and Jonathan Taylor probably should be getting a lot more respect as a Heisman Trophy candidate than he is, too.

It's all adding up to the Badgers needing a big win to gain status as the only team in the Big Ten that has a real shot of playing in the College Football Playoff. There is a major difference between the Hawkeyes playing at friendly Kinnick Stadium than playing at Camp Randall, one of the toughest venues in the nation. Badgers ambush the Hawkeyes.

Projected Score: Wisconsin 35, Iowa 14



CONSENSUS COLLEGE FOOTBALL UNDERDOG BEST BET

CENTRAL FLORIDA -38.5 Over Connecticut by 28

The Huskies have largely been overmatched this season, but at least they have covers in three of their last four games after starting off the campaign at 0-5 ATS. Their 37-20 loss to South Florida was worse than it seems. Connecticut was down 34-7 at the end of the third quarter and rallied for two touchdowns in an eight-minute span in the final stanza to make the final score slightly more respectable.

There has to be a real concern here for the UConn defense. The Huskies rank dead last in America against the pass, allowing 378.6 yards per game, and they're second-to-last in total defense at 554.3 yards per game allowed. With a UCF offense coming to town that is the top-scoring team in the land, it's going to be hard to see how the visitors are going to manage to get anything in the way of stops.

UCF just keeps on keeping on. The Knights' defense played really well against SMU last week in a 31-24 victory. The offense made its mistakes in this win, and this was the type of game that easily could have gone out of whack in a hurry.

The Knights are hoping that wins over the Huskies, Temple and South Florida at the end of the regular season and presumably Memphis in the AAC Championship Game can at least keep them in the National Championship discussion.

The Knights are only snapping the ball 67 times per game this season, but it feels like they operate significantly faster than that. But let's not take anything away from UCF. The Knights are averaging 8 yards every time they snap the ball, including 11 yards per pass and 5.7 yards per carry. They're averaging 18.4 points per game in the second quarter alone, and if they can repeat that against Connecticut, the Huskies are in some trouble.

McKenzie Milton has thrown for 2,409 yards and 20 touchdowns this season, but this offense is about a lot more than just one man. There isn't a single running back averaging even 10 carries per game, and 11 different receivers have at least six receptions. Surely, Milton is going to throw for 300+ yards in this game and lead the Knights to an easy victory.

It seems as if the sportsbooks have finally caught up to UCF just a bit. The Knights have failed to cover consecutive games after starting at 5-0-1 ATS, and this feels like a lot of points against a team that is notorious for not giving up even when games are out of hand. UConn is only averaging 9.3 points per game in the first half and has dumped a lot of points on the board in the second halves of games. Bryant Shirreffs should have enough in the tank to put two touchdowns on the board against the Knights, this should be enough to cover this lofty point spread. There's no way the Knights get up for this easy game after smacking down SMU last week. It's time for Frost to put it in cruise control; play his entire roster; give his studs a well needed rest and keep his team healthy as they point to the big game ahead with USF. In addition we noticed that Frost takes his foot off the gas pedal frequently in the fourth quarters of games that are already won, and that's really going to be a factor in covering this generous points spread. Therefore, we'll be holding our breath, and hoping that Frost shows mercy for **our underdog pick of the week Connecticut +38.5**.

Projected Score: Central Florida 42, Connecticut 14



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NFL PICKS NOW 25-19 ATS

The LA Rams hit the road and thrashed the hapless NY Giants 51-17, as QB Jared Goff and company are currently the highest-scoring offense in the NFL. How many people predicted that after the former standout at Cal looked like a deer in headlights in his rookie season? The Rams have won and covered three in a row, and the 'over' has cashed in six of their eight games overall. Cross-country trips haven't fazed the Rams, either, as they're 2-0 SU/ATS in two outings in the Eastern Time Zone.

Jared Goff is all thumbs up leading the Rams this year.

-- The Jacksonville Jaguars came out of their bye rested, and they humbled the visiting Cincinnati Bengals by a 23-7 count at EverBank Stadium. It might have been an eyebrow-raising win considering they were a six-point favorite despite missing all-everything rookie RB Leonard Fournette, who was deactivated due to a violation of team rules. Jacksonville was led by their defense, and they won and covered because it was an odd-numbered week. If you've been following this column all season you'd know the Jags are 5-0 SU/ATS in odd-numbered weeks, and 0-3 SU/ATS in even-numbered weeks, which is why it was good their bye was in Week 8. So will they fail to cover at home against the visiting Los Angeles Chargers this week? And hey, the Bolts are coming off a bye, so they'll be rested.

-- Sunday Night Football hit the 'over' for the first time since Week 5, as the Oakland Raiders picked up a much-needed road victory against the hard-to-figure Miami Dolphins, 27-24. That's now three 'over' results in a row for the Silver and Black, and their second straight over in the Eastern Time Zone. It was also the third consecutive 'over' for the Fins, thanks in large part to their flagging defense. Miami is allowing 31.7 PPG over their past three outings after yielding just 16.9 PPG through their first five games, all 'under' results.

-- The games with the two lowest total on the board -- Cincinnati-Jacksonville (38) and Arizona-San Francisco (39) -- actually went according to how Vegas figured for once. The Jags have hit the 'under' in three of their past four outings, and they have yielded single-digit point totals in five of their first eight outings this season. The Bengals have struggled on offense, averaging just 16.2 PPG this season. And the 49ers have a rookie QB, and they have scored exactly 10 points in each of their past three outings, so no surprise on the 'under' there, while the Cards have a backup signal caller under center.

-- The Tampa Bay-New Orleans (54.5) game was far and away the highest total on the board, and it never came close to going over. In fact, the Bucs have two scoreless quarters, and the Saints had one, while all but one of the quarters had 10 or fewer total points. It was rather surprising considering the 'over' had cashed in each of the first three road games for Tampa this season, and the Saints are averaging 30.5 PPG in four home outings (over is 2-2).

-- The 'Over' is 17-11 (60.7%) through the first 28 primetime games of the 2017 season with Monday's NFC North Division clash between the Detroit Lions-Green Bay Packers (43) still pending. Officially, the 'over' finished 27-24 (52.9%) through 51 games under the lights in 2016. In 2015, the over finished 20-28-1 (41.7%) in 49 primetime games. In 2014, the over went 33-17 (66.0%) in primetime games, and the over was 28-22 (56.0%) in 2013.

Injury Update

-- Buccaneers QB Jameis Winston (shoulder) has had a bum shoulder for the past couple of weeks, and he exited Sunday's game in New Orleans early due to a shoulder ailment. He was on the sidelines, however, bugging Saints CB Marshon Lattimore, and he ended up touching off a fracas.

-- Cowboys WR Dez Bryant (ankle) suffered a right ankle injury in the fourth quarter of the win against the Chiefs, but he told The Dallas Morning News that he was just sore and bruised, and he would be fine for Week 10. -- Seahawks RB Eddie Lacy (groin) left early due to a groin injury against the Redskins and he was unable to return.



PRES PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Minnesota -1.5 at WASHINGTON & 43 Under Total By 10

The Vikings have won each of Case Keenum's last three starts, and he will likely have a tougher nut to crack, especially with the Skins at home. The Vikings have won two of their three played road games with Keenum under center. Regardless of what goes down on the offensive side of the ball, you know Minnesota is going to bring it defensively with it boasting the league's No. 3 ranked total and scoring defense. The Vikings have only conceded greater than 20 points once in their eight played games.

The Redskins went into CenturyLink Field and scored the shocking 17-14 outright win as 8-point underdogs. In doing so, Washington evened its season record up at 4-4 and returns home where it's only managed to split its first four games. They lost double-digit decisions to the Cowboys and Eagles, but took care of business against the 49ers and Raiders. Nothing about the team jumps off the page statistically. It doesn't do anything really good or really bad. With that, it comes as no surprise to have seen them split their first eight games of the season.

Though the Vikings possess the statistical edge defensively both on paper and the playing field, I have a feeling the outcome of this game all comes down to turnovers. Minnesota coughs it up an average of 1.0 time per game, while the Redskins have averaged nearly 2.0 turnovers per game. The Vikings have forced 10 takeaways, while the Redskins have also forced that exact same amount. However, Washington owns a -3 turnover margin while Minnesota checks in at +2. Whichever one of these sides does the better job of protecting possession of the pigskin will likely come out the victor of what will likely be a hard fought affair. Therefore, the side play here is a tossup based on the TO ratio and more below.

Washington has alternated wins and losses each of the last six times it was installed a home underdog. They've been in that scenario already three times this season, and only managed one cover and outright win when they thumped the Oakland Raiders on SNF. The other two games saw them fall by an average of 13 points to Dallas and Philadelphia. The Vikings failed in their lone game as a road favorite, only beating the Bears 20-17 as 3-point favorites. In doing so, they fell to a bankroll bursting 3-7 ATS the last 10 times Zimmer's troops were tabbed favorites away from the Twin Cities. Early betting on the game shows nearly 82 percent of the betting handle has laid the points, the line dropped half a point in the Redskins favor. This has ugly grind it out affair written all over it, and because of it, I am taking the tick. Tick, tick, tick goes the clock, as this game submarines the inflated total of 43. Take UNDER 43.

Projected Score: Minnesota 17, Washington 16

DJ PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

NY Jets + 1.5 Over TAMPA BAY By 5

The Jets put an end to a tough three-game losing streak last Thursday night when they thumped the division rival bills 34-21 as 3-point home underdogs. The 13-point final margin of victory nowhere near describes how the game truly went down. New York dominated outgaining Buffalo 331-307 and won the turnover battle 3-0. The Bills only managed to surpass 300-yards of offense in garbage time with the game already decided.

New York did a fantastic job shutting down LeSean McCoy to just 25 yards on 12 carries. Quarterback Tyrod Taylor's 35 yards led the team on the ground. It was very much so surprising with the Jets entering the game with a defense ranked amongst the bottom third of the league at stopping the run. It will however enter this tilt allowing an average of just 85.3 yards per game rushing over the last three weeks.

Who the heck is running this Tampa Bay franchise? How on god's green earth is Jameis Winston taking snaps if he can't finish games? Nip it in the bud and put the kid on the bench already! Save for an unexpected showing at Buffalo that saw him throw for over 300 yards and 3 touchdowns, the former Florida State Seminole has done nothing but cost his team games over the last month by logging QB ratings less than 70.0 in the other three matchups.

Ryan Fitzpatrick once again came in to relieve him last Sunday, but failed to build off his effort in Arizona when Winston first suffered his injury. He will likely lead a Bucs offense that's managed to put an average of 6.5 points on the board over the last two weeks. That is if Winston is supplanted on the bench like he should be. Either way, the Jets offer up a beatable secondary that's conceded an average of 234.3 yards per game (No. 20) on the year.

Josh McCown is the main reason why the Jets haven't suffered a pointspread defeat since getting rolled up and smoked in Oakland way back in Week 2. Tampa's pass defense leaves much to be desired (No. 30), so if the Jets are to score back-to-back wins for the second time this season, McCown must play a big role in pulling off that feat.

The Buccaneers, I want absolutely nothing to do with this disappointing franchise. On the flipside, Todd Bowles is doing a heck of a job getting the most with less than any other coach in the league. This team has been money in the bank for a bulk of the season, and I don't foresee that changing and I will back them as short dogs to win this game outright.

Projected Score: NY Jets 26, Tampa By 21

BAGS PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

TENNESSEE - 5 Over Cincinnati By 12

The Bengals looked nothing short of listless in last week's ugly 23-7 road loss to the Jaguars. Andy Dalton only completed 10 of 18 passes for 136 yards and failed to throw a touchdown for the third time this season. On top of that, the ground game also failed to get going with Joe Mixon's 31 yards on 13 carries leading the way. Due to the offense's complete inability to rack up any sort of yardage, the Bengals rank No. 24 in time of possession, but that stat jumps up to No. 26 over the last three weeks. If they don't improve in this matchup, they'll be on the wrong end of another ugly final.

While it was far from pretty, the Titans did just enough to hold on for the 23-20 win against the Ravens last Sunday. Both DeMarco Murray and Derrick Henry had issues finding much running room against Baltimore's stout rush defense, but Marcus Mariota ended up having his best game since Week 3 after throwing for 218 yards and a couple touchdowns. It was only the second time to date that he logged more than one throwing score.

Pass defense continued to be a sore spot for the Titz who allowed Joe Flacco to tally a game-high 268 passing yards and a 65.3 percent completion rate. His last minute touchdown strike allowed for the Ravens to sneak in for the cover/push much to the chagrin of Tennessee backers. The defense gets a reprieve this week with a Cincinnati offense that's struggled to pass the football in a big way evidenced by it ranking No. 26 in the league with just over 200 yards per game.

The Bengals got the benefit of opposing a Jacksonville offense without the services of Leonard Fournette who got suspended for the game due to a violation of team rules. Even with that the case, Cincinnati allowed Chris Ivory and T.J. Yeldon to gouge them for 110 combined yards as the premiere rock toters out of the backfield. Bottom line, Cincy's run defense is flat out awful and represents a huge spot for the Titans to dominate and control the game from the outset. Should Tennessee roll on the ground as expected, I'd look to live bet the home team till the cows come home.

There's simply no hope for the Bengals. Marvin Lewis is as lame duck a coach as there is. This matchup is tailor made for Tennessee to put forth one of its most impressive efforts. The Titans need to get their ducks in a row and I expect them to do exactly just that by looking to the ground game early and often. The Bengals have been a joke defensively since returning from their Week 6 bye, and I don't expect it to get any better this week.

Projected Score: Tennessee 28, Cincinnati 16

SAMMY PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

BUFFALO +3 Over New Orleans By 4

After managing just 1 touchdown pass the previous two weeks, Drew Brees put forth one of his better efforts of the season in getting to Tampa Bay for 263 passing yards and a couple of passing touchdowns. His 131.9 QB rating was the best of the season, and he gets another solid matchup to beef up his stats in against the Bills No. 24 ranked pass defense that gives up just over 250 passing yards per game.

While the New Orleans offense ranks out top 10 in most pertinent stat categories, it's the play of Dennis Allen's defense that's allowed for the Saints to grab hold of the NFC South lead. Though it ranks out middle of the pack in total yards allowed as well as pass and run defense, the unit concedes less than 20 ppg and registers nearly 3 sacks per game.

After taking the Jets down by a 19-12 final count the opening week of the season, the betting public was all in on Sean McDermott's squad in their Thursday night tilt in the Big Apple. Buffalo closed as 3-point favorites in the game, but never once was in a position to cover the road chalk after getting outgained 331-307 while losing the turnover battle 3-0.

Tyrod Taylor had what looked like a decent game on paper in throwing for 285 yards and a couple scores, but most of those stats were accrued in garbage time. After rushing for 110 yards on 22 carries versus the Jets in Week 1, LeSean McCoy was nowhere to be found after gaining a grand total of 25 yards on 12 carries. Buffalo needs their two offensive superstars to play much better than that if the team is to build upon what's already been a surprising season.

While the Saints defense has turned a corner this season, it's still given up its fair share of yardage. Especially on the ground where the unit is giving up an average of 116.1 yards per game (No. 18) at a whopping 4.9 yards per carry (No. 29). That average bumps up to 5.5 yards per carry over the last three weeks! If ever there was a spot that Buffalo could punish its opponent with a dominating ground attack, this is it. Should the Bills be able to move the ball via the run, they'll likely win the time of possession battle. Do that, and you have a much better shot of beating a

I foresee this matchup being one that gets plenty of bettors into trouble. As well as the Saints are currently playing, only being asked to lay a field goal no doubt looks to be a no brainer. That's what the sportsbooks want you to believe. Drew Brees has never been good on the road outdoors, and the Bills possess the rush defense to take this version of the Saints offense out of their comfort zone. Nearly 70 percent of the early handle is backing the visitors. A soft field and weather off the banks of Lake Erie is feasible. Go against the grain on this one, and take the Bills.

Projected Score: Buffalo 24, New Orleans 20

COLLEGE & PRO FOOTBALL LEANER PICKS

All leaner picks by Sammy & Bags. If game is not listed, it's a pass or not a leaner pick.

NCAA FOOTBALL 11/7/2017

101 AKRON

7:30 PM

102 MIAMI-OHIO -6

So there was no info on Ragland's injury. I'm going to take Akron, who has been playing better football. The road team is also 4-1 ATS last 5 in this series. Zips cover.

103 BOWLING GREEN 59

7:30 PM

104 BUFFALO -9

While the under has hit in the last five games between the teams, one of them was a 36-35 scoreline in 2014 with an over/under of 76. Bowling Green's defense is still suspect and has given up an average of 35.4 points. Buffalo's offense is somewhat skewed by its 71-68 loss to Western Michigan, but it has scored at least 20 points five times this season. Go Over

NCAA FOOTBALL 11/8/2017

105 KENT ST.

7:00 PM

106 WESTERN MICH -21

I am taking Western Michigan in this matchup. Kent State owns the worst offense in the Country, averaging only 10.7 points per game, and have only scored a combined four touchdowns in their last four games.

107 TOLEDO -4

7:00 PM

108 OHIO U. 65

Bobcats 21-8-1 Under in their last 30 games against the Mid-American Conference 5-1-1 Under in their last seven games against teams with winning records. Go under.

109 E. MICHIGAN -1

8:00 PM

110 C. MICHIGAN

This one goes into my fishy line category. The Eagles shouldn't be favored, so the bookies want you to bet the Chippewas. I'm not falling for it, I'm taking the EMU Eagles.

NCAA FOOTBALL 11/9/2017

113 BALL ST. 52

7:00 PM

114 NORTHERN ILL. -32

Well, the Cardinals have been crushed in their last five games, with four of those losses being by over 40 points. They have allowed 56.7 ppg over their last three games and the Huskies should be able to score plenty, so go over the total.

115 GEORGIA SOUTHERN

7:30 PM

116 APPALACHIAN ST -17

The Eagles will try to grind the clock but they can't keep up with the Mountaineers' explosive offense. Look for Appalachian State to get back in the win column as they prevail here and cover.

NCAA FOOTBALL 11/10/2017

119 TEMPLE -2.5

7:00 PM

120 CINCINNATI

The Owls have been inconsistent, but they are a better team in this matchup. It's best to go with them as the short favorite.

121 WASHINGTON -6

10:30 PM

122 STANFORD

Stanford is 1-3-1 ATS in its last five overall, 2-5 ATS in its last seven at home, and 2-6-1 ATS in its last nine against winning opponents. Count on those trends continuing.

NCAA FOOTBALL 11/11/2017

125 MICHIGAN -15.5

3:30 PM

126 MARYLAND

Michigan beat up on the Terps, 59-3 last season in Ann Arbor. Michigan is just a much better team. Michigan covers this one.

127 FLORIDA 46

12:00 PM

128 S. CAROLINA -7.5

South Carolina isn't a big offensive team but they've been pretty good on defense and the Gators are all about defense. I will go under in this game.

129 VIRGINIA TECH -2.5

12:20 PM

130 GEORGIA TECH

I expect GT to fall to a better Virginia Tech squad, especially since the Hokies are 3-0 ATS in their last six trips to Bobby Dodd Stadium. VT is the right side.

131 TULANE - 5.5

7:00 PM

132 E. CAROLINA

The Home team is 6-0 ATS in their last six meetings. Green Wave have gone 0-4 on the road for the year so far. Look for the Pirates to cover this one

133 N. CAROLINA ST. - 3

12:00 PM

134 BOSTON COLLEGE 52

NC State put 31 on Clemson and 39 on Louisville. The Eagles find ways to put the ball in the end zone. Even though all trends point the other side, I have to go over in this one.

135 CONNECTICUT 62.5

12:00 PM

136 C. FLORIDA -38.5

Golden Knights have allowed just 21 ppg at home. Can UConn score enough to put this game over the total? I think they can because they will have plenty of chances to score as the Knights will score quickly on them.

137 WAKE FOREST 59

3:00 PM

138 SYRACUSE - 1

The Syracuse Orange have averaged 33.6 ppg at home. I look for this one to go Over the total.

139 RUTGERS

12:00 PM

Scarlet Knights are still a long way from competing with the elite. Lions are hungry again.

140 PENN ST.- 30	
141 DUKE - 1 12:00 PM	The Black Knights coming off a nice win against Air Force and they will be fired up for Veterans weekend. Cadets shoot down the Blue Devils here.
142 ARMY	
145 INDIANA - 9 12:00 PM	The under is 5-1 in the Hoosiers' last six on the road and 8-3 in their last 11 following a loss. It is also 5-1 in the Fighting Illini's last six at home, 6-2 in their last eight on fieldturf. Look for this one to stay under the total.
146 ILLINOIS 49	
147 TROY - 17 4:30 PM	The Chanticleers lost by one point to Arkansas. They may have found themselves and I think 17.5 points is too much. I'll take those points.
148 COASTAL CAROLINA	
149 MIDDLE TENN. ST. -12 2:00 PM	The 49ers offense is anemic, but their defense has been playing better and I think they lose a 24-14 type of game. Let's take the points at home.
150 CHARLOTTE	
151 WYOMING -3 10:15 PM	I'm willing to give the Falcons the benefit of the doubt. Their offense had been great for the last month and they just threw in a hiccup versus Army.
152 AIR FORCE	
153 SAN JOSE ST. 4:00 PM	It doesn't matter how favored a team is against San Jose State, it's a better option to go against them
154 NEVADA - 19	
155 TEXAS TECH – 7.5 12:00 PM	Baylor is not facing a team with a good defense. Don't expect them to defeat a high-powered TTU offense, but they should make it fairly close.
156 BAYLOR	
157 WEST VIRGINIA 3:30 PM	It's arguable that the victories the Wildcats have gotten are against two of the lesser conference foes. The Mountaineers' offense should eventually be able to pull away.
158 KANSAS ST. - 2.5	
159 TCU 62 8:00 PM	This total will is a very high number. Should we expect a total compared to TCU's last four games, can they hold down Oklahoma's offense? This one goes Over.
160 OKLAHOMA - 8	
161 OKLAHOMA ST. - 6.5 12:00 PM	Until the Cyclones consistently put up points, it's hard to even bet the over so go under.
162 IOWA ST. 62	
163 VIRGINIA 3:30 PM	With how bad Louisville's defense has been, it's a slight surprise to see them this heavily favored. Virginia deserves more respect than a double-digit dog, so take advantage of it.
164 LOUISVILLE – 11.5	
165 NOTRE DAME -2.5 8:00 PM	With so much on the line, this should be a tightly contested, low-scoring affair. Go under.
166 MIAMI-FLORIDA 57.5	
167 SMU 3:30 PM	Abey is questionable again for this one. He has struggled with turnovers and the Mids have struggled against the pass and the Mustangs can surely toss it. Take SMU.
168 NAVY -4.5	
169 WASHINGTON ST. -2 5:30 PM	This one likely stays under the total but that's more a matter of Utah grinding the clock.
170 UTAH 52	
171 PURDUE 7:00 PM	Northwestern has been on a roll with four straight victories. Purdue had been struggling and was dealt a blow when Blough was lost for the year
172 NORTHWESTERN -6	
173 UL LAFAYETTE 3:30 PM	Facing a team from the Sun Belt should be something that the Rebels can handle. Look for Ole Miss to even their record with a win and cover here.
174 MISSISSIPPI -17.5	
175 NEBRASKA 12:00 PM	Nebraska isn't anywhere near as good a team as they've been in previous years. Give the points and take Minnesota at home here.
176 MINNESOTA -2.5	
177 ALABAMA - 14 7:00 PM	Alabama is 2-5 ATS in its last seven against winning opponents and 3-8 ATS in its last 11 on grass. The Bulldogs are 4-1 ATS in their last five at home and 21-5 ATS in their last 26 at home against opponents with winning road records. Expect those trends to continue.
178 MISSISSIPPI ST. 51	
179 FLORIDA AT'L - 4 3:30 PM	The Owls are currently rolling, while the Bulldogs come in off a bad home loss to North Texas. FAU is the side.
180 LOUISIANA TECH	
181 SOUTHERN MISS -10.5 3:30 PM	It's hard to bet on Rice. Their offense is anemic and they can't stop anyone on defense. Let's take the Golden Eagles
182 RICE	

183 USC -13.5
 4:00 PM
 184 COLORADO 60.5
 187 GEORGIA - 2
 3:30 PM
 188 AUBURN
 189 TENNESSEE
 7:30 PM
 190 MISSOURI - 9

 191 NEW MEXICO 52
 7:00 PM
 192 TEXAS A&M -19

 193 ARIZONA ST. 66.5
 9:30 PM
 194 UCLA - Pk
 195 KENTUCKY 52
 4:00 PM
 196 VANDERBILT -3
 197 ARKANSAS ST. -11.5
 5:00 PM
 198 SOUTH ALABAMA
 199 GEORGIA ST -5.5
 4:00 PM
 200 TEXAS ST.
 203 KANSAS
 6:00 PM
 204 TEXAS - 33
 205 W. KENTUCKY
 6:30 PM
 206 MARSHALL -13
 207 OLD DOMINION
 7:00 PM
 208 FLORIDA INT'L -8.5
 209 UAB
 7:00 PM
 210 UTSA -7

 211 FLORIDA ST. 46
 3:30 PM
 212 CLEMSON -16
 213 ARKANSAS 55
 12:00 PM
 214 LSU -16.5
 215 OREGON ST. 71.5
 10:00 PM
 216 ARIZONA -23
 217 BOISE ST. -4.5
 10:30 PM
 218 COLORADO ST.
 219 FRESNO ST. -9
 11:59 PM
 220 HAWAII

USC is 10-4 Over last 14 after an ATS win, while Colorado is 4-1 Over last 5 conference games. The trend is your friend.

Auburn is 1-4 ATS in its last five at home against opponents with winning road records and 4-9 ATS in its last 13 in November. Count on those trends continuing.

The Vols will have a tough task trying to keep Missouri in check, because the Tigers' offense is firing on all cylinders right now.

The under is 4-0 in the Lobos' last four overall, 5-0 in their last five on the road, 4-0 in their last four non-conference contests, 5-0 in their last five following a loss, and 5-1 in their last six on grass. It is also 4-1 in the Aggies' last five overall, 7-3 in their last 10 at home. Look for this one to stay under the total.

UCLA is home but can we trust the Bruins and Rosen to cover. No, so take the Over.

Kentucky has allowed at least 20 points in each of its last 6 contests. Over is 5-1 in the Commodores' last 6 overall, 7-0 in their last 7 against the SEC, 8-2 in their last 10 at home. Go over.

I am going with Arkansas State in this matchup. Arkansas State is on a roll and have been unstoppable offensively, scoring at least 37 points in four straight games.

Texas State has been losing games by an average of nearly two touchdowns. Even on the road, Georgia State is the pick.

Kansas has surrendered 38 or more points in seven out of their last eight games, and the Longhorns should cover this one.

Western Kentucky plays strong defense, and have especially excelled against the pass, allowing an average of only 186 passing yards per game, so they should slow down Marshall's passing game and cover.

The Golden Panthers are just a better team. Lay the points with FIU in what will be a win and cover.

This also fits into my fishy spread category. I'm surprised the line is this big and I think the bookies want people to take the Blazers. I'm not falling for it, and I'll take the Roadrunners at home.

The Tigers have scored 28 or fewer points in three out of their last four games, and Florida State is strong enough defensively to at least contain their offense, plus the under is 5-1 in Clemson's last six games overall. Take the under.

LSU hung tough against Alabama but couldn't make the plays needed to come up with the win. That won't be a problem here as the Tigers dominate the Razorbacks.

Oregon State has been decimated by injuries on defense. Arizona is 25-10 over in the Wildcats' last 35. Look for this one to go over the total.

Broncos are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 road games. Rams are 0-4 ATS in their last 4 conference games and last 4 overall. Prefer Boise in this spot.

Hawai'i has been awful against the spread this season. Go with Fresno State in this one.

NFL 11/9/2017

111 SEATTLE – 5.5
8:25 PM
112 ARIZONA 42.5

Arizona is not going to put up 30+ points against Seattle without Carson Palmer and David Johnson. But the Seahawks struggle against quality defenses because they can't block anybody and they have no running game. Arizona is 12-3 Under their last 15 home games. Go under.

NFL 11/12/2017

253 GREEN BAY 38
1:00 PM
254 CHICAGO -5
255 PITTSBURGH -10
1:00 PM
256 INDIANAPOLIS 43
257 LA CHARGERS 41
1:00 PM
258 JACKSONVILLE -4
265 CLEVELAND 44
1:00 PM
266 DETROIT -12
267 HOUSTON 46
4:05 PM
268 LA RAMS -10
269 DALLAS 53
4:25 PM
270 ATLANTA -3

The Packers and Bears offenses are struggling to put points up. Bears and the under is 4-0 in their last four home games. I'll play the under in this game.

The Colts offense is showing some signs of life, and while I don't expect huge points, they should get on the board 3 times to push the total over.

the Chargers will contain Bortles in the air. Jacksonville's defense is only allowing an average of 14.6 points per game, and it should play a key role in the under cashing in.

Detroit is 7-0 ATS in its last seven in November. Count on the trend continuing.

Los Angeles is 4-1 ATS in its last five overall and 6-2 ATS in its last eight in Week 10. Expect those trends to continue.

The over is 4-1 in the last five meetings between the two teams. Look for this one to go over the total.

The 49ers, despite their record, have battled and shown grit: that five game stretch saw them one or two plays at most from winning all of those games. Sooner or later, that sort of effort is rewarded: this is the week. Take the 49ers at home here.

The teams have gone over the total in six of the last nine meetings: look for these two to push this one past the number.

271 NY GIANTS 42
4:25 PM
272 SAN FRANCISCO -Pk
273 NEW ENGLAND -7
8:30 PM
274 DENVER 46

NFL 11/13/2017

275 MIAMI 39.5
8:30 PM
276 CAROLINA - 9

Miami is the lowest-scoring team in the NFL. Carolina has the league's best overall defense. Go Over right? No go under.

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	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Underdog
CFB	Pittsburgh - 8.5	UNLV - 4	Michigan St + 15	Wisconsin - 11.5	Connecticut + 38.5
NFL	Minnesota U43	NY Jets + 1.5	Tennessee - 5	Buffalo + 3	

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