

Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter

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College & Pro Football Best Bets Newsletter

Dennis Stagliano's Award Winning Football Newsletter

Volume 36 Issue 17

December 12, 2017

COLLEGE FOOTBALL REGULAR SEASON UNDERDOG PICKS 10-5 67% LET'S GO BOWLING THIS WEEKEND

College Bowl Game Vegas Moves

When South Point posted the first College Football Playoff lines in Las Vegas, sharp money showed up on Alabama at pick 'em vs. Clemson in the Sugar Bowl. Find out if we agree or not! Here's a peek at some other intriguing bowl games:

Cotton Bowl - USC vs. Ohio State (-6.5) - Dec. 29, 8:30 p.m. ET, ESPN

There's a consensus on the Cotton Bowl, as Ohio State -6.5 is the number being dealt throughout Las Vegas, with no action significant enough for early adjustments. We will be at this bowl game and backing our pick in our bowl issue.

Fiesta Bowl - Washington vs. Penn State (-3) - Dec. 30, 4 p.m. ET, ESPN

Penn State's been as high as -4.5 and as low as -2 offshore, but the line has settled at a field goal in Vegas but we think one of these teams will smash the other in a surprise. See which one we chose in our bowl issue.

Orange Bowl - Wisconsin (-6.5) vs. Miami - Dec. 30, 8 p.m. ET, ESPN

Respect for the Big Ten continues, with the Badgers listed as substantial favorites in what's essentially a home game for Miami. Should they be giving a TD spot to a home team in a Bowl game? We will tell you the right side in our bowl issue.

Outback Bowl - South Carolina vs. Michigan (-10) - Jan. 1, 12 p.m. ET, ESPN2

There's been a strong early move on Michigan, as the Wolverines opened -7 at the Wynn and have been bet to between -9.5 and -10 around town. Can the Wolverines score enough to cover that move? We'll explain in our bowl issue.

Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl - Central Florida vs. Auburn (-10) - Jan. 1, 12:30 p.m. , ESPN

Doubt abounds around unbeaten Central Florida as they take a major step up in class. Auburn can be found for -9.5 at some betting locales. What! They don't think UCF can score on Auburn, really? Check our bowl issue for our pick.

Citrus Bowl - LSU (-2.5) vs. Notre Dame - Jan. 1, 1 p.m. ET, ABC

Wiseguys are on LSU early, driving the line at the Wynn to Tigers -2.5 after Notre Dame opened the 1-point chalk. LSU is laying as many as 3 at some shops. Not sure if we agree with this move?



ATS PREDICTIONS & PREVIEWS FOR ALL 40 BOWL GAMES

PRES COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

NORTH DAKOTA ST -20 Over Sam Houston By 27

The Sam Houston State Bearkats and North Dakota State Bison meet Friday in the college football semifinal playoffs at the Fargodome.

The Sam Houston State Bearkats have a chance to advance to the championship game after beating Kennesaw State, 34-27, in the quarterfinals. Sam Houston was our underdog winner last week in this newsletter. The Sam Houston State Bearkats have won three of their last four road games. Jeremiah Briscoe is completing 58 percent of his passes for 4,714 yards, 44 touchdowns and 13 interceptions. Briscoe is averaging 362.6 passing yards per game this season. Davion Davis and Nathan Stewart have combined for 2,715 receiving yards and 30 touchdowns while Yedidiah Louis has 66 receptions. The Sam Houston State Bearkats ground game is averaging 184 yards per contest, and Cory Avery leads the way with 1,068 yards and 14 touchdowns. Defensively, Sam Houston State is allowing 29.4 points and 438.8 yards per game. Justin Johnson leads the Sam Houston State Bearkats with 101 tackles, Chris Stewart has 13 sacks and Zyon McCollum has three interceptions.

The North Dakota State Bison have a chance to reach the championship game after beating Wofford, 42-10, in the semifinals. The North Dakota State Bison have won each of their last eight home games. Easton Stick is completing 62.7 percent of his passes for 2,176 yards, 23 touchdowns and seven interceptions. Stick has two or more touchdown passes in six of his last 10 games. Darrius Shepherd and RJ Urzendowski have combined for 1,027 receiving yards and eight touchdowns while Jeff Illies has 17 receptions. The North Dakota State Bison ground game is averaging 267.5 yards per contest, and Bruce Anderson leads the way with 970 yards and eight touchdowns. Defensively, North Dakota State is allowing 11.4 points and 228.3 yards per game. Nick DeLuca leads the North Dakota State Bison with 61 tackles, Jabril Cox has four sacks and Tre Dempsey has five interceptions.

The North Dakota State Bison have trucked the last two teams they've played and they're used to these big games after being in the playoffs nearly every year. Playing in the Fargodome is also one of the toughest things to do, and this game can get out of hand quickly for Sam Houston if they're not careful. Bearkats scored no less than 33 points in each of the last eight games. Sam Houston State has a really good quarterback who would be tearing up UAB right now if the program didn't shutdown for a season. Having an explosive offense with a QB who can manage the game and put points on the board is key in games like this and that's why I like the over in this game. But as far as the side goes, there's no way I'm going to buck the Bisons in Fargo and they're going to win. The question is, by how many will they win? As I mentioned earlier, this game can get out of hand and I'd rather be on the side that can accomplish that feat. I think it will close to the spread, but I feel better with the better team at home.

Projected Score: North Dakota St. 44, Sam Houston 17



Gridiron Gold College Football Bowl Game Packages

DJ COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

JAMES MADISON -3 Over South Dakota St. by 10

The South Dakota State Jackrabbits and James Madison Dukes meet Saturday in the college football semifinal playoffs at the Bridgeforth Stadium. What a great nickname is the Jackrabbits.

The South Dakota State Jackrabbits look to reach the championship game after waxing New Hampshire, 56-14, in the quarterfinals. The South Dakota State Jackrabbits have won four of their last five road games. Taryn Christion is completing 60 percent of his passes for 3,281 yards, 33 touchdowns and eight interceptions. Christion has at least two touchdown passes in each of his last nine games. Dallas Goedert and Jake Wieneke have combined for 1,928 receiving yards and 21 touchdowns while Cade Johnson has 23 receptions. The South Dakota State Jackrabbits ground game is averaging 181 yards per contest, and Brady Mengarelli leads the way with 783 yards and six touchdowns. Defensively, South Dakota State is allowing 21.8 points and 373.8 yards per game. Christian Rozeboom leads the South Dakota State Jackrabbits with 118 tackles, Ryan Earith has five sacks and Jordan Brown has three interceptions.

The James Madison Dukes look to improve to 14-0 on the year as they hope to complete a perfect season. The James Madison Dukes are a combined 16-0 at home the last two seasons. Bryan Schor is completing 66.3 percent of his passes for 2,871 yards, 24 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. Schor has two or more touchdown passes in four of his last eight games. Terrence Alls and David Eldridge have combined for 1,101 receiving yards and six touchdowns while Riley Stapleton has 40 receptions. The James Madison Dukes ground game is averaging 197.2 yards per contest, and Trai Sharp leads the way with 719 yards and four touchdowns. Defensively, James Madison is allowing 10.3 points and 242.3 yards per game. Kyre Hawkins leads the James Madison Dukes with 98 tackles, Andrew Ankrah has 7.5 sacks and Jordan Brown has seven interceptions.

The South Dakota State Jackrabbits haven't lost since their game against Northern Iowa, which feels like forever ago, and they've shown the ability to blow teams out and win the close ones, which are signs of a good team. James Madison could have easily lost last week against Weber State and the offense has to be better if its going to survive to see championship weekend. South Dakota State is a balanced football team that's going to put up a fight and has the ground game to control the tempo and take some of the life out of the building. But when it's said and done, we just have to lay a field goal with a team that's unbeaten and hasn't lost at home in two years. That counts for something. So, while last week wasn't pretty and is a pause for concern, I'll take the James Madison Dukes -3 to the ticket window.

Projected Score: Jimmie Madison 34, Weber St 21



GRIDIRON GOLD

GRIDIRON GOLD

Gridiron Gold College Football Bowl Game Packages



LET'S GO 4-0! NFL RECORD NOW 34-29 AGAINST THE SPREAD GOING INTO MNF MIAMI DOLPHINS PICK AGAINST THE SPREAD

Big Ben is 1st to throw for over 500 yds 3 times.

NFL Football Recap

- The Pittsburgh Steelers won one for injured star Ryan Shazier - and wrapped up the AFC North in the process. Ben Roethlisberger threw for 506 yards and two touchdowns, becoming the first QB in NFL history to top 500 yards passing three times. Chris Boswell made a 46-yard field goal with 42 seconds left for a thrilling Sunday Night Football 39-38 win.

-- The Green Bay Packers posted their second consecutive victory, and third straight cover, with an overtime win on the road against the Cleveland Browns. The Packers entered the fourth quarter down 21-7, but backup QB Brett Hundley led them to the 14-point comeback, forcing OT. Then, QB DeShone Kizer was picked off in Cleveland territory, and the Pack had a short field to work with in the extra session. The Packers were 0-3 SU/ATS in the first three games QB Aaron Rodgers was hurt and/or he missed, but they have won three out of the past five while going 4-1 ATS to stay in the playoff hunt. Now, Rodgers is primed and ready to return for the final three games with a playoff spot within reach. The 'over' is 3-0 in the past three for Green Bay, and 5-1 over their past six outings, too.

-- The Los Angeles Chargers blasted the Washington Redskins so badly (30-13) that head coach Jay Gruden was "at a loss for words" in his post-game presser. The Bolts have now won four in a row, and they're 7-2 SU/ATS since starting out 0-4 SU/0-3-1 ATS over their first four outings. The Chargers have found a way to win the close games, something that eluded them earlier in the season. Defense has also been a major part of their turnaround, as they're allowing just 9.7 PPG over the past three. The 'under' is an impressive 7-1 over their past eight outings, and 9-3 over the past 12 contests.

-- It was a strange week for totals, as the games Vegas expected to be shootouts were filled with defense, and some of the games expected to be lower-scoring turned into offensive showcases. And, of course, we had a snow-filled battle in the Indianapolis-Buffalo (36.5). Several inches of snow fell on the heads of the Colts and Bills, and we had a 7-7 battle go to overtime before the Bills ripped off a game-winning TD scamper through the flakes.

-- Sunday's game with the highest total (48.5), Oakland-Kansas City, never quite got off the ground and 'over' bettors were fighting to get back into it all day. That's because the teams totaled just three points in the first quarter before rallying for 41 total points. The Miami-New England (48) is still pending, but the Detroit-Tampa Bay (48) game also never quite got off the ground to develop as an offensive shootout. And, of course, Thursday's New Orleans-Atlanta (52) battle was an unexpected defensive battle. The only game Vegas fingered as a high-scoring showcase which turned out to be that, and more, was the Philadelphia-L.A. Rams (47.5) battle.

-- The three lowest totals on the board from Sunday -- Indianapolis-Buffalo (36.5), Green Bay-Cleveland (38.5) and Chicago-Cincinnati (40) -- went 1-1-1 to the 'under'. We covered the snow game above, and the Pack spoiled the 'under' with two fourth-quarter touchdowns to force OT and kill 'under' bettors. With :17 left in regulation, the Packers scored a TD. And the Bears-Bengals game opened at 37.5 before closing at 40. Anyone who bet the 'over' in this game before Sunday likely cashed a winning ticket.

-- The 'Over/under' finished 1-1 in the first two primetime games during Week 14, and the 'over' is 25-17-1 (59.5%) through the first 43 primetime games of the 2017 season with Monday's New England Patriots-Miami Dolphins game 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.

-- Eagles QB Carson Wentz (knee) is feared to have suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament to his left knee in the NFC showdown against the Rams. As of this writing, he'll have an MRI on Monday to confirm the results. The Eagle fans certainly have their fingers crossed with the hope of good news.

Vegas Books pull out a small win in Week 14

Las Vegas sports books got a bit of a break with the Baltimore Ravens (+6) covering the spread in their 39-38 loss at Pittsburgh, which helped most betting shops show a small profit on the day.

However, the big story Sunday was the Philadelphia Eagles (-1) possibly losing QB Carson Wentz for the season with an ACL injury suffered in their 43-35 win at the Los Angeles Rams. The books lost a bunch on the decision, but the Wentz injury drastically changed the entire complexion of the NFC playoff race and the odds offered around town.

"We bumped the Eagles up to 10-to-1 to win after the injury and we'll review on Monday to decide where we go from there," said Westgate Las Vegas SuperBook VP Jay Kornegay shortly after the injury. "The NFC really is jammed packed with Super Bowl contenders on top and when you look at the other QB's in comparison to (back-up) Nick Foles you've got to like Case Keenum and Jared Goff. There's no Tom Brady-type in the NFC." Kornegay also noted Cam Newton and Drew Brees, but his point was that the NFC is deep and there are a lot of green QB's put at the forefront with just three weeks to go until the playoffs start. It's not such a crazy idea seeing the Rams, Saints or Vikings in the Super Bowl. But on Sunday morning, it appeared the Eagles were on their way which is why they the NFC's top choice to the Super Bowl at 4/1 odds. That's all up in the air now.

As for Sunday's Week 14 action, the books showed a small profit on the day thanks to the Ravens covering the spread that ran up from Pittsburgh being a 5.5-point favorite up to -6 by kickoff. After the first 13 games of the day it ended up being a grind for both the bettors and bookmakers.

"It was pretty much a wash with the Eagles covering," said MGM Resorts race and sports VP Jay Rood prior to the Steelers decision. "We needed the Eagles early in the week, but it flipped."

Large money had come in on the favored Rams pushing the number to as high as -2.5, but sharp money flooded the books with Eagles money making them as high as -2 by kickoff. In a playoff-type atmosphere in Los Angeles, the Eagles came away with the win aided by back-up QB Nick Foles making a few key throws to seal the win.

While the action was large on the Eagles-Rams game, one of the major books in town saw a slight dip in volume. "Handle was short this week from what we've been seeing, but that's typical when the rodeo is in town," said Rood. "We (needed) the Ravens to show a small profit on the day, and the Steelers make us a small loser. But this has been the lightest action on a Sunday night game all season," said Rood.

CG Technology books and Station Casinos also reported a small win on the day thanks to the Ravens covers despite both chain of books also taking it on the chin with Eagles. Philadelphia is now sitting alone atop the NFC at 11-2 (10-3 against the spread) following the Panthers (+2.5) 31-24 home win over the Vikings (10-3).

The Vikings had covered their last seven games and won eight straight prior to the loss. In Week 15, they get to face the hapless Bengals who lost 33-7 at home in the Jungle to the Bears (+6), a game that turned out well for the house. MGM books had the Bears +230 on the money-line, the highest price among the five underdogs that covered on the day.

Favorites went 8-6 ATS overall and the 'under' cashed in eight of the 14 games.

"One of our biggest losses of the day was the Bills," said Rood. The Bills captured an improbable 13-7 overtime home win against the Colts (+3.5). The total dropped from 40 to 36 because of a wild storm in Buffalo where the snow kept piling on.

"I think it was one of those things that snuck up on us where both the sharps and us didn't realize the magnitude of how bad the weather actually was," said Kornegay. "We were monitoring the weather by the minute, but it was way worse than we expected. And the fact we didn't get a lot of sharp play on the 'under' shows they didn't realize it either."

The Jaguars 30-24 home win over the Seahawks (+2.5) turned out to be Station Casinos best win of the day. This was game between two stout defenses that had Jacksonville up 3-0 at the half making 'under' 40.5 look to be a great bet. But then the flood gates opened as the Jaguars used defense, special teams and offense to secure the win that was much larger than the score indicates.

The biggest roar of the day from the sports book crowd was when the Packers (-2.5) scored a touchdown in overtime to win 27-21 at winless Cleveland (0-13). Sharps loved the Browns, again, and drove the number down from +3.5 to +2.5, but the public loved the Packers against the Browns. Most bettors would have their Packers bet by a hook had the Packers simply kicked a field goal in overtime to win, but the theme stayed true and Cleveland got the worst of it. With the Broncos 23-0 home victory against the Jets (-1), the Browns are once again the worst cover team in football at 3-10 ATS. The Broncos are now 3-9-1 ATS.

Other notes from Week 14 saw the 49ers win for the third time in four weeks and two straight behind QB Jimmy Garoppolo with their spirited 26-16 win at Houston. The Chiefs and Chargers stayed tied atop the AFC West at 7-6 with their wins as favorites and the Cowboy's buried the Giants (+3.5) in Eli Manning's return as the starter, 30-10.

PRES PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Philadelphia -7 Over NY GIANTS by 14

If you had looked at the schedule at the start of the year and heard that Foles was going to be playing quarterback for the Eagles in Week 15, you'd think that the Giants would be favored in the game, right? Instead, New York is still going to be a rather sizeable underdog, even with what might still end up being the league's MVP watching from the booth in a wheelchair.

The Giants have had some bad luck this year, but this was bad luck of their own creation. They wasted so much money on wide receivers that they never really built the core of a team. It's no wonder why they rank No. 26 in the league in scoring defense and have surrendered more yards than anyone else in the NFL at 395.7 per game.

Toss in the fact that Brandon Marshall and Odell Beckham Jr. have been out for months now, and you've got the makings of a team that flat out isn't very good. It's why both Ben McDoo and Jerry Reese were fired last week.

The Eagles are going to have a few weeks to figure out what in the heck it's going to turn into without Wentz. There is still business to tend to with two more wins required to win the No. 1 seed in the NFC and at least one more win likely to wrap up a first-round bye in the playoffs.

The one thing we know Philadelphia has is an incredibly deep backfield. Even with Darren Sproles and Donnel Pumphrey on IR for basically the whole year, the Eagles have LeGarrett Blount, a reinvigorated Jay Ajayi, Corey Clement and Wendell Smallwood who can shoulder the load. There's a good chance that these four men all suit up this week, and the four could end up carrying the ball 40 times between them to give Foles the greatest chance for success. Though we haven't seen Foles lineup as a full-time starter since 2015, he's not the worst backup quarterback to have in the world. He came off the bench for Kansas City last year against Indianapolis then started the next game against Jacksonville. The Chiefs won both games, and he went 36-for-55 for 410 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions in those games. At the time, many believed that Foles should have been starting over Alex Smith. In a league that can't seem to find 32 competent starting quarterbacks, it's a wonder how Foles has become a backup. We know that we'd rather have him than a number of the other starters in this league at this point, and we don't think the drop off is going to be anywhere near as big from Wentz to Foles as it was from Aaron Rodgers to Brett Hundley in Green Bay.

The Giants aren't going to be able to move the ball against this defense, and this game isn't suddenly going to become the first in two calendar years in which they score 30+ points. Hey Foles put 23.5 on the board in his 37 career starts (including the postseason) and he has a great supporting cast. It isn't going to take a masterpiece by Foles to cover this spread. A simple solid performance without much in the way of errors should do the trick.

Projected Score: Philadelphia 27, NY Giants 13

DJ PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

NEW ORLEANS -15 Over NY Jets By 24

Josh McCown really was having a good year for the Jets. He threw for 2,926 yards and 18 touchdowns against nine picks, and a 94.5 quarterback rating is as good as New York has seen out of a quarterback in a good, long while. But now, McCown's season is probably over after he broke his non-throwing hand last week in Denver. Bryce Petty came in to replace McCown and went 2-for-9 for just 14 yards. The options in front of Todd Bowles aren't good right now. Petty has already proven that he isn't a legitimate NFL quarterback, and we can't imagine that Christian Hackenberg has been sidelined this long and still has a shot of really making it in this league.

The Saints should be thrilled to get a bit of a reprieve here after going through a gauntlet over the course of the last few weeks. New Orleans was beaten by the Rams and the Falcons on the road and took care of business against the Panthers at home to sweep that season series. New Orleans isn't likely to punt this game even though it's a big sandwich spot between the two crucial games with the Falcons. The Saints have only lost once at home this year, a forgivable defeat at the hands of the then-0-1 Patriots.

It's a good thing the Saints have a long week after playing on Thursday Night Football last week. Kenny Vaccaro suffered a groin injury against the Falcons last week and will be tested before getting back on the field this week. The worst injury, though, came to the prospective Offensive Rookie of the Year, Alvin Kamara. The rookie from Tennessee is in concussion protocol after taking a big hit in the first quarter against the Falcons. If he can't play, the whole backfield will belong to Mark Ingram, a role he hasn't succeeded in over the years when he's had his opportunities. With Ted Ginn Jr. also dinged up, this offense that is one of the most-feared in the NFL could may turn into a much less-frightening unit.

My gut feeling is that Brees is going to chucking it all over the yard. I'll take Brees vs Petty all day long. The Saints will win and keep control of the NFC South, and they'll win going away on a fast track. A strong Brees will ground the Jets.

Projected Score: New Orleans 34, NY Jets 10

BAGS PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

JACKSONVILLE -13 Over Houston By 7

The Savage concussion last week against the Niners was the icing on a cake that was built by the injury bug this season. The list of names begs to be repeated time and time again of injuries Houston has had to put up with: Derek Newton never started the season after tearing up his knees last year. J.J. Watt and Whitney Mercilus were on IR by the middle of October. Deshaun Watson's season was over just after Halloween. Bruce Ellington and C.J. Fiedorowicz saw their seasons come to an end the first week of December. Savage, Braxton Miller, Alfred Blue, Jelani Jenkins and Kendall Lamm all left last week's game with concussions. And yet with all of that going on, the Texans are still 7-6 ATS.

Meanwhile, it's all come together this year for Jacksonville. The Jags aren't going to break the NFL record for sacks in a season. Calais Campbell has devolved from the greatest monster ever along the defensive line to a merely terrifying mortal. Yet this team is forcing turnovers at its greatest clip in franchise history. The blips, though, are all alarming. This is a team that was beaten by Tennessee at home, the Jets on the road, the Rams at home and the Cardinals on the road, and they were either favored or a dog by a single point in all four of those games. Leonard Fournette needs just 77 yards to get to 1,000 in his rookie season. Fournette has a chance to prove he should be the Offensive Rookie of the Year.

The Jags haven't been favored in this many games in the same season in years. They've been chalks in nine games in a row, including all seven since their bye. That said, this is a real treat for Jacksonville fans. A Houston team that has terrorized the Jags over the years is now a whopping 13-point underdog. This is the biggest spread Jacksonville has had on its head since December 23, 2007 when it was laying 14 against Oakland. This is also an enormous change in the point spread from the first time these two teams met in Week 1. Jacksonville was +5.5 that day and blew out the Texans 29-7. Now, the change in venue and 12 games in between, and the margin has shifted by a stunning 18.5 points.

When the Jaguars have fallen of late, they've fallen really hard and in spots that you wouldn't have seen coming. Jacksonville has to be feeling good about itself just like it was after winning its first three games before losing to Arizona. Is Houston actually live in this game? Why not? Yates was unstoppable for two drives right when he came into the game against the 49ers, and he had more touchdown throws on those two drives than Savage had in his first four years in the NFL. If Yates actually has a little something left in the tank, this could turn into an ugly game where these points could end up being valuable. The Jags are 6-1 ATS in their past seven division battles, and 5-2 ATS in the past seven overall. The road team has hit in six of the past seven meetings, with Houston 5-1 ATS in the past six trips to Jacksonville. I'm taking the generous points spread in what seems to be another defensive battle where two TD's can hang.

Projected Score: Jacksonville 20, Houston 13

SAMMY PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

WASHINGTON -4 Over Arizona by 12

The fact that Bruce Arians has successfully kept the Cardinals relevant with Blaine Gabbert and Kerwynn Williams prominently involved in this offense is out of this world. Arizona should have been dead in the water the moment that Carson Palmer was lost for the season. Instead, the Cards have looked better with Gabbert than they did with Palmer. The Cardinals have virtually no deep passing threat with Gabbert under center, thus it's really rough to think that they only have two drives inside the opposing 10-yard line in 240 minutes of football. Phil Dawson has nine field goals in his last three games, and he has really helped bail out this offense by booming three kicks through the uprights of at least 50 yards. Without Dawson, it's a wonder if the Cardinals would ever score at this point.

So, you're saying there's a chance, huh? That's what Washington is discussing right now at 5-8. Winning out and getting some help – OK, a lot of help – could at least get the Skins into the postseason, though obviously, this is a club thinking about next season. Kirk Cousins is auditioning for a future team. It's unlikely Washington uses a third consecutive franchise tag on Cousins, one that would probably make him the highest-paid player in NFL history. It's also unlikely that a long-term deal is reached, especially if Cousins continues to struggle down the stretch. Playing without the disappointing Terrelle Pryor and effectively being saddled with a rookie running back thanks to injuries, Cousins has struggled at times of late. He's thrown for 644 yards and four touchdowns in his last three games, but he also has four interceptions in that run. In a related story, those three games are the first three without Chris Thompson this year. Washington, which was averaging 23.8 points per game with Thompson in the fold, is averaging just 15.7 points per game without him.

Arizona feels like a bit of fool's gold to me. This defense isn't nearly as good as 320.6 yards per game would suggest, and Gabbert still tends to turn games into a mess when he has to make plays from behind. The Redskins don't have the offense they used to have with Thompson in the fold, but they're still quite capable as they showed against the Saints a few weeks ago. The books are all asking Washington to lay almost a full touchdown. That's a lot of lumber to be laying with a team that hasn't scored more than 20 points since its do-it-all tailback has been out of the fold, but I just don't trust an Arizona team that is only 4-8-1 ATS this year. Therefore, it's the Redskins who kill the Cards playoff hopes.

Projected Score: Washington 28, Arizona 16

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.

12/14 8:25 ET	Broncos at Colts (+1, 41)	The Colts stuck around with the Bills last week in Mother Natures a de facto snow globe at Buffalo. Thankful to be indoors this week. Take the Colts in a mild upset.
12/16 4:30 ET	Bears at Lions (-6, 43.5)	The Over is 4-1 in the past five meetings at Ford Field and that's where our money is going too. The trend is your friend.
12/16 8:25 ET	Chargers at Chiefs (-PK, 45)	Chargers 4-1 ATS past 5 trips to Arrowhead, just 2-6 ATS in past 8 meetings. Under is 5-2 past 7 and we like the under. Side is DJ's Guaranteed Marquee Pick of the Week .
12/17 1:00 ET	Packers at Panthers (-3, 45)	The value is just far too good here to miss out on. Aaron Rodgers can roll out of bed and toss TD's and the Panther O is clicking. Take over the total of 45.
12/17 1:00 ET	Bengals at Vikings (-12, 42)	Minnesota doesn't blow teams out often, making this 10-point spread prohibitive; it only has one win by double-digits since its bye at the start of November. That said, we're going to take as shot with Cincinnati plus a dozen points.
12/17 1:00 ET	Dolphins at Bills (OFF)	No line because the Fish are playing the MNF game tomorrow (after the writing of this newsletter). Bills are really banged up right now and Fish don't do well in freezing temperatures. We're going to go under the total in either snowy or bitter Buffalo.
12/17 1:00 ET	Ravens at Browns (+ 7, 40)	The Ravens have covered four straight in this series, and they're 7-1-1 ATS in the past nine trips to Cleveland. The 'over' has hit in four straight in Cleveland, too. We expect those trends to continue so it's the Ravens and Over.
4:00 ET	Rams at Seahawks (PK, 48)	The Rams are 4-1 ATS in their past 5 on the road. In this series, the 'under' is 5-0 in the past 5 in Seattle, and 15-5-1 in the past 21 meetings. We expect this to be a tough defensive battle so we're going under the total here.
12/17 4:25 ET	Patriots at Steelers (-2, 49.5)	New England has covered four of their past five trips to Heinz Field, and they're 12-4 ATS in past 16 meetings. The 'over' is 5-2 in the past 7 battles in the Steel City, and 9-4 in the past 13 meetings overall and both QB's are awesome. Go over total again.
12/17 4:25 ET	Titans at 49ers (-1.5, 44)	The 49ers have had a horrible time sticking the ball in the end zone, even with Garoppolo under center. They lived to tell about missed opportunities against Chicago and Houston, they won't against the Titans. Wrong favorite here, take points.
12/17 SNF 8:30 ET	Cowboys at Raiders (+2.5, 44)	Dallas is fighting for the playoffs and to get there, the need to win this game for sure. Dak seemed to click late in last weeks game vs the Giants and probably no dropsy disease this week in the Cowboys receiving corp.
12/18 MNF 8:30 ET	Falcons at Bucs (+6, 47.5)	The Falcons understand the magnitude of this game and will not win the division with a loss here. Bucs are 1-10 ATS in their past 11 against NFC foes and 0-5 ATS in their past five divisional outings. Falcons soar high.



ATS PREDICTIONS & PREVIEWS FOR ALL 40 BOWL GAMES

Gridiron Gold NFL Line Sheet December 14-17, 2017

Date/time	Rot	Team	Line
12/14/17	301	Denver Broncos	-2.5
8:25 PM ET	302	Indianapolis Colts	41
12/16/17	303	Chicago Bears	44
4:30 PM ET	304	Detroit Lions	-6
12/16/17	305	Los Angeles Chargers	-2
8:25 PM ET	306	Kansas City Chiefs	46.5
12/17/17	307	Philadelphia Eagles	-8
1:00 PM ET	308	New York Giants	40
12/17/17	309	Green Bay Packers	45
1:00 PM ET	310	Carolina Panthers	-3
12/17/17	311	Cincinnati Bengals	42
1:00 PM ET	312	Minnesota Vikings	-11
12/17/17	313	Miami Dolphins	
1:00 PM ET	314	Buffalo Bills	
12/17/17	315	Houston Texans	39
1:00 PM ET	316	Jacksonville Jaguars	-11.5
12/17/17	317	New York Jets	47
1:00 PM ET	318	New Orleans Saints	-16
12/17/17	319	Arizona Cardinals	43.5
1:00 PM ET	320	Washington Redskins	-4.5
12/17/17	321	Baltimore Ravens	-7
1:00 PM ET	322	Cleveland Browns	40
12/17/17	323	Los Angeles Rams	48
4:05 PM ET	324	Seattle Seahawks	-1
12/17/17	325	New England Patriots	-2.5
4:25 PM ET	326	Pittsburgh Steelers	54
12/17/17	327	Tennessee Titans	44
4:25 PM ET	328	San Francisco 49ers	-2
12/17/17	329	Dallas Cowboys	-3
8:30 PM ET	330	Oakland Raiders	46
12/18/17	331	Atlanta Falcons	-6
8:30 PM ET	332	Tampa Bay Bucs	47.5

December 16th, Five Big Guaranteed Bowl Game Picks Are Ready Right Now!

