

Gridiron Gold Sheet

Bowl Games

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**Previews & Picks For Every Bowl Game &
Gridiron Gold Sheet Bowl Game of the Year**

Dennis Stagliano's Award Winning Football Newsletter

Volume 37 Bowl Issue 2

Bowl Games December 21-26, 2018

★ **Best Bets** ★

BAHAMAS BOWL

December 21, 12:30 ET, Nassua, Bahamas

Florida International vs Toledo – 6½

The Golden Panthers are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games overall and 8-3 ATS in their last 11 games following a straight up loss. The Rockets are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games overall however, just 2-5 ATS in their last 7 non-conference games. Florida International is a solid team that outside of their 49-14 loss to FAU, has been a tough team to beat on both sides of the ball. Toledo once again had a solid offensive attack, however, the injury to Mitchell Guadagni really hurts this passing game. Toledo's backup QB Eli Peters put up decent number since taking over the starting job, however, he didn't play much in terms of competition down the stretch (Ball State, Kent State, & Central Michigan) and we think he is going to struggle against the Florida International defense. Florida International has a solid QB in James Morgan who should have success against the Rockets 105th ranked passing defense and we think the Golden Panthers at worst will cover with the points if not a straight-up win.

TAKE: FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL + 6½

POTATO BOWL

December 21, 4:00 ET, Boise, ID

B.Y.U. vs Western Michigan 50

Over is 4-0 in Western Michigan Broncos last 4 games overall and over is 4-0 in Western Michigan Broncos last 4 games on fieldturf and over is 5-0-1 in Western Michigan Broncos last 6 games after accumulating less than 100 yards rushing in their previous game. BYU Cougars are 0-4 ATS in their last 4 Bowl games and BYU Cougars are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 games overall and BYU Cougars are 0-4 ATS in their last 4 games in December. We're not sure we want to get involved in this one given the number. We would rather go under in this game.

TAKE: WMU/BYU UNDER 50

BIRMINGHAM BOWL

December 22, 12:00 ET, Birmingham, AL

Wake Forest vs Memphis 74

The Tigers are 1-5 ATS in their last 6 neutral site games, 3-7 ATS in their last 10 non-conference games and 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games overall. The Demon Deacons are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 bowl games, 1-4 ATS in their last 5 non-conference games and 4-10 ATS in their last 14 games overall. The over is 5-1 in Tigers last 6 games overall.

The Memphis Tigers are coming off a tough loss to UCF for the AAC title in which they controlled most of the game, but they've scored 41 or more points in four of their last five games. The Wake Forest Demon Deacons are coming off their best showing of the season, a 59-7 road win over Duke, and they've topped 50 points in four of their last five wins. The Memphis Tigers have covered each of their last five games when favored of at least two points. Points a plenty.

TAKE: WAKE FOREST/MEMPHIS OVER 74 (check weather to ensure no rain).

ARMED FORCES BOWL

December 22, 3:30 ET, Ft. Worth, TX

Houston vs Army - 3

Under is 5-0 in Houston Cougars last 5 games on grass and over is 5-0 in Houston Cougars last 5 vs. a team with a winning record and Houston Cougars are 6-1 ATS in their last 7 games following a ATS loss. Army Black Knights are 6-0-1 ATS vs. a team with a winning record and over is 11-1 in Army Black Knights last 12 games after allowing less than 170 yards passing in their previous game and Army Black Knights are 5-1 ATS in their last 6 games on grass. Road team is 4-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings and Houston Cougars are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 meetings and underdog is 4-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings. We think the Black Knights do their thing on the ground and control the time of possession. In addition the

Cadet has a strong defense and will keep the dangerous Cougars offense in check.

TAKE: ARMY - 3

DOLLAR GENERAL BOWL
December 22, 7:00 ET, Mobile, AL

Buffalo – 2½ vs Troy

Buffalo Bulls are 0-5 ATS in their last 5 neutral site games and over is 3-0-1 in Buffalo Bulls last 4 vs. a team with a winning record and Buffalo Bulls are 5-0 ATS in their last 5 games following a ATS loss. Over is 7-0 in Troy Trojans last 7 neutral site games and over is 7-0 in Troy Trojans last 7 bowl games.

We don't think there is a no doubt about it winner here. This is a tossup game between two very under rated teams. A great matchup but Buffalo has a bit more balance on the offensive side of the ball.

TAKE: BUFFALO – 2½

HAWAII BOWL
December 22, 10:30 ET, Honolulu, HI

Louisiana Tech vs Hawaii - PK

The Rainbow Warriors are 15-34-2 ATS in their last 51 games overall and just 9-23 ATS vs. a team with a winning record. The Bulldogs are 5-1 ATS in their last 6 games following an ATS loss and 5-2 ATS in their last 7 non-conference games. Hawaii had a top-10 passing offense this year however, the defense struggled once again as the Rainbow Warriors rank just 111th in scoring defense. Louisiana Tech doesn't blow you away on either end of the field, however, is a solid club that is led by their defense that ranks 33rd in total defense. We're always a little nervous going with Hawaii as their defense can give up a ton of points, however, we think the passing attack will find success against the Bulldogs and as this is basically a home game for the Rainbow Warriors, we think they do enough to win this bowl game in their backyard.

TAKE: HAWAII - Even

★ Best Bets ★

FIRST RESPONDER BOWL
December 26, 10:30 ET, Dallas, TX

Boston College vs Boise State – 2½

The Eagles are 9-3-1 ATS versus a team with a winning record and 3-1-1 ATS in their last five neutral-site games. Boston College is 15-6-1 ATS in the last 22 overall and 2-7 ATS in the last nine bowl games.

Meanwhile, the Broncos are 3-0-1 ATS in their last four on grass and 5-1 ATS in the last six Wednesday games. Boise State is 7-3 ATS in their last 10 bowl games and 9-4 ATS in their last 13 neutral-site games.

Boston College skids into this one with a three-game losing streak, which oddly enough follows a three-game winning streak. Aside from Purdue, Clemson and Syracuse, the Eagles have been competitive against everyone they've faced, even in their other pair of defeats. As for Boise, they've eked by a couple of teams they should have blown out, and had their opportunities versus Fresno State, but coming into this matchup we don't see them having a ton of trouble. We're going Broncos on the cover.

TAKE: BOISE STATE – 2½

★ Best Bets ★

QUICK LANE BOWL
December 26, 5:15 ET, Detroit, MI

Minnesota vs Georgia Tech – 5½

The Gophers are 5-0 ATS in their last five non-conference games and 2-5-1 ATS in their last eight following a straight-up win. Minnesota is 0-4 ATS in their last four following an ATS win and the under is 4-1 in their last five in December.

Meanwhile, the Jackets are 4-0-1 ATS in their last five neutral-site games and 5-1 ATS in their last six in December.

Georgia Tech is 2-5 ATS in the last seven following an ATS loss and 1-4 ATS in their last five non-conference games.

Minnesota has had the dictionary definition of an up-and-down campaign this year. The Gophers have a couple of nice wins on their resume (Fresno, etc.) and also some stinkers (55-31 loss to Illinois, etc.). As for Georgia Tech, they make no secret about what they're going to do with that option run, and the question is whether or not the defense can stop it.

We're not quite sure Minnesota is equipped to deal with that style, so we're going to take the more consistent Jackets on the cover in what should be a fun game.

TAKE: GEORGIA TECH – 5½

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★ Best Bets ★

CHEEZ-IT BOWL
December 26, 9:00 ET, Phoenix, AZ

T.C.U. vs California – Pk & 40½

The QB situation has been tough for TCU this season as they lost starter Shawn Robinson for the season midway through the season. Mike Collins replaced Robinson and completed 56.4% of his passes for 1059 passing yds, 6 TD & 2 INT however, he hurt his foot towards the end of the season and was replaced by Grayson Muehlstein who looked impressive over the final two games of the season. Leading the way for the Horned Frogs backfield has been Darius Anderson who has 3 rushing TD's on the season while averaging 54.4 yds/g on 11.3 att/g. Defensively, TCU is allowing their opponent to average 24.4 ppg on 344.4 total yards per game (202.6 passing yds/g; 141.8 rushing yds/g). The Horned Frogs have forced 16 turnovers on the season however, finished the regular season with a turnover margin of -6.

California's offense can at times struggle to generate points however, with a defense that has a knack of creating turnovers while also ranks 16th in the country in total defense, the Golden Bears are a tough team to beat as long the offense doesn't turn the ball over. TCU has had a tough year after losing Shane Robinson to injury and dismissing their most dynamic offensive player in KaVontae Turpin, the offense had real trouble putting points on the scoreboard. We think that this game has the makings of a low-scoring battle however, we think the Golden Bears will be able to pull out a victory if they limit their turnovers. Take California to win.

TAKE: CALIFORNIA & UNDER 40½

THIS BOWL ISSUE BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
CFB	F.I.U. + 6½	Boise State - 2½	Georgia Tech - 5½	California - Pk	T.C.U. Under 40½

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