

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

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INDEPENDENCE BOWL **December 27, 12:30 ET, Shreveport, LA**

Duke vs Temple - 3

The Owls are 37-17 in their last 54 overall and 35-17 ATS in their last 52 following an ATS win. Meanwhile, the Devils are 4-0 ATS in their last four bowl games and 4-0 ATS in their last four in December and 7-2 ATS versus a team with a winning record. Temple stumbled out of the gate but did get better as the year wore on, and put up some very impressive offensive performances down the stretch. As for Duke, they put up some nice wins this year and were pretty decent in conference play, even though they came across some tough customers there. Still, the Blue Devils are a little unreliable for us, and though we're not crazy about Temple either we're going to take them here. Realistically this is a tough matchup to pick.

TAKE: TEMPLE - 3

★ Best Bets ★

PINSTRIPE BOWL **December 27, 5:15 ET, Bronx, NY**

Wisconsin vs Miami - 3 & 48

The Hurricanes are 1-6 ATS in their last 7 bowl games, 1-5 ATS in their last 6 vs. Big Ten and 2-5 ATS in their last 7 games overall. The Badgers are 3-8 ATS in their last 11 neutral site games, 8-2 ATS in their last 10 games on grass and 1-4 ATS in their last 5 games overall. The under is 4-1 in Badgers last 5 games overall. The under is 5-0-1 in Hurricanes last 6 games overall. The Miami Hurricanes finished the season strong with two victories, but this is a team that was riding a four-game losing streak, had quarterback issues and the fan base seems to be turning quickly on coach Mark Richt. The Wisconsin Badgers got rocked in their season finale against Minnesota and have been held to 17 or less points in four of their last seven games. The Miami Hurricanes have failed to cover five of their last eight games when a favorite of at least three points. The Wisconsin Badgers have covered seven of their last 11 games when an underdog of at least three points. Miami is obviously going to have revenge on its mind after the Badgers beat the breaks off of them at home last season in the Orange Bowl. Wisconsin isn't the same team as it was a year ago. With all that said, we don't trust the Hurricanes right now, especially when going up against a team as well coached as Wisconsin. This game is also in New York, and players from South Florida usually don't do well in freezing weather. We want the free field goal with Wisconsin and we want under in this game since both teams don't score well and the weather may be a significant problem.

TAKE: MIAMI UNDER 48

TEXAS BOWL **December 27, 9:00 ET, Houston, TX**

Baylor vs Vanderbilt - 4

Baylor is 0-5-1 ATS in their last 6 non-conference games and 9-1 ATS in their last 10 games in December while the under is 4-0 in their last 4 games overall. Vanderbilt is 5-0 ATS in their last 5 games overall and 5-1 ATS in their last 6 non-conference games while the over is 4-0 in their last 4 bowl games. We were a little bit surprised to see Baylor as an underdog in this one with this game being in Texas with their huge fan base. However, we think that just goes to speak to how well Vanderbilt put it together ATS down the stretch. We like what the Commodores have brought to the table and we think that Vanderbilt can cover this spread and win by a touchdown so we'll lay the points with the Commodores here.

TAKE: VANDERBILT - 4

★ Best Bets ★

MUSIC CITY BOWL December 28, 12:30 ET, Nashville, TN

Purdue vs Auburn - 4½

Purdue is 7-1 ATS in their last 8 non-conference games and 4-1 ATS in their last 5 neutral site games while the over is 4-0 in their last 4 bowl games. Auburn is 2-7-1 ATS in their last 10 non-conference games and 2-5 ATS in their last 7 neutral site games while the under is 4-0-1 in their last 5 bowl games. We can understand why Auburn would be the favorite here as we surmise a lot of Auburn fans will be making the trek from Alabama to Tennessee for this game. Also, the SEC gets a ton of respect. However, we kind of wonder how up for this game Auburn truly is going to be after having such a recent string of meaningful bowl games in the last few years and now having to play in what is just another game by the Tigers' standards. Purdue on the other hand, has a chance to win back-to-back bowl games for the first time in 20 years with a victory here, and to be honest, we just trust Purdue more here, and believe they can put up points on the Tigers, so we'll take the points with the upset minded Boilermakers.

TAKE: PURDUE + 4½

★ Best Bets ★

CAMPING WORLD BOWL December 28, 5:15 ET, Orlando, FL

Syracuse vs West Virginia - PK

The Mountaineers are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 non-conference games, 2-5-1 ATS in their last 8 Friday games and 0-5 ATS in their last 5 bowl games. The Orange are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 games on fieldturf, 4-1-1 ATS in their last 6 non-conference games and 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games overall. The Mountaineers are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 meetings. The over is 5-2 in Orange last 7 games overall. The over is 5-0 in Mountaineers last 5 games overall. The West Virginia Mountaineers have scored no less than 41 points in each of their last five games, but they gave up a combined 104 points in their last two games. The Syracuse Orange are coming off a road beatdown over a solid Boston College team, and they have a chance at 10 victories for the first time in nearly two decades. The West Virginia Mountaineers have covered five of their last seven games when favored of at least six points. The Syracuse Orange have covered seven of their last nine games when an underdog of at least six points. The bottom line is that both teams are high powered offensively and led by confident quarterbacks who can light it up. Points are going to come in buckets and the game will be decided by which defense can get a stop or force a late turnover. Update: WVU QB Grier has decided to not play in this bowl game. So that turns the tide for us. We already liked the Syracuse side but now we like it even more. We don't think the Mountaineers can match points without their All American QB. Orange crushes the Mountaineers.

TAKE: SYRACUSE EVEN

ALAMO BOWL December 28, 9:00 ET, San Antonio, TX

Iowa State vs Washington State - 3

On the season, Washington State is averaging 38.3 ppg on 461.8 total yards per game (379.8 passing yds/g; 82.1 rushing yds/g). Offensively, Washington State has been led by QB Gardner Minshew II who completed 70.6% of his passes for 36 TD & 9 INT while averaging 373.1 passing yds/g. The top receivers for Minshew and the Cougars have been Dezmon Patmon (4.6 rec/g; 61.7 yds/g; 4 TD), Davontavean Martin (5.4 rec/g; 54.2 yds/g; 8 TD), and Easop Winston Jr. (4.0 rec/g; 50.9 yds/g; 8 TD). Leading the way for the Washington State backfield has been RB James Williams who had 12 rushing TD's on the season while averaging 46.0 rushing yds/g. Williams is a major threat in the Cougars passing attack also as he has 4 receiving TD's on the season while averaging 46.7 receiving yds/g on 6.3 rec/g. Defensively, Washington State is allowing their opponents to average 23.1 ppg on 345.3 total yards per game (208.8 passing yds/g; 136.6 rushing yds/g). The Cougars forced 20 turnovers on the season and finished the regular season with a turnover margin of +6.

We're fans of the job that Matt Campbell has done with Iowa State however, we think it's going to be hard for the Cyclones to find success against the Cougars in this game. Washington State's passing attack should be able to find success against the 62nd ranked Cyclones passing defense as we think the Cougars 30th ranked total defense will be able to slow down David Montgomery & Brock Purdy, we're taking Washington State to cover this small spread.

TAKE: WASHINGTON STATE - 3

★ Best Bets ★

PEACH BOWL December 29, 12:00 ET, Atlanta, GA

Florida vs Michigan - 6

Michigan is 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games against a team with a winning record and 1-5 ATS in their last 6 non-conference games while the over is 7-0 in their last 7 games against the SEC. Florida is 6-2 ATS in their last 8 bowl games and 7-3 ATS in their last 10 games overall while the over is 7-2 in their last 9 games against the Big Ten.

Florida has to be playing with a ton of confidence right now after getting back to a bowl game following a tumultuous season last year, and you know that coach Dan Mullen will have his guys ready.

However, this is the first bowl game experience for some of the key players on Florida's roster, including Feleipe Franks, so there's bound to be some jitters, and going up against the toughest defensive unit in the country that's ticked off about how they blew a chance to be in the national playoff isn't the best opponent that you'd want in that situation.

We think no nonsense HC Harbaugh gets his troops in tip top fighting readiness to erase the ugly loss to the Buckeyes. We believe the Michigan Wolverines will take out some serious aggression on the Florida Gators and win by at least a few touchdowns here. So lay the lumber, yes we're going to lay the points and watch the Wolverines chow down on Gator meat. This is really not our best bet. **THIS IS OUR GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BOWL GAME OF THE YEAR PICK.**

TAKE: MICHIGAN - 6

BELK BOWL December 29, 3:00 ET, Charlotte, NC

South Carolina vs Virginia - 6

The Gamecocks are 4-0 ATS in their last four bowl games and 4-0 ATS versus a team with a winning record. South Carolina is 6-0 ATS in their last six neutral-site games and 4-1 ATS in their last five overall. Meanwhile, the Cavs are 6-1 ATS versus a team with a winning record and 5-2 ATS in their last seven non-conference games. The over is 5-0 in Virginia's last five bowl games and 4-0 in their last four in December.

Looking at South Carolina's finishes this year, they've performed pretty well against the tougher teams. Sure, the Gamecocks fell by 14 to Kentucky and 56-35 to Clemson but beat Missouri by two, lost to Texas A&M by three and Florida by just four.

As for Virginia they've looked solid most of the year but haven't exactly faced the type of competition the Gamecocks have. We're going to back the more battle tested South Carolina fighting Gamecocks to cover here.

TAKE: SOUTH CAROLINA + 6

★ Best Bets ★

COTTON BOWL December 29, 4:00 ET, Arlington, TX

Notre Dame vs Clemson - 13 & 55½

The Irish are 4-0-1 ATS versus a team with a winning record and 4-0 ATS in their last four neutral-site games. Notre Dame is 4-1 ATS in their last five versus the ACC and 6-2-1 ATS in their last nine overall.

Meanwhile, the Tigers are 8-1 ATS in their last nine in December and 7-1 ATS in their last eight bowl games. Clemson is 11-2 ATS in their last 13 neutral-site games and 6-2 ATS in their last eight overall.

There's no denying it; Clemson has been an absolute juggernaut this year. The last time the Tigers had much trouble in a game was way back on September 29 versus Syracuse, which was a 27-23 win against a really good team.

As for Notre Dame, they've had some great victories as well, but looking at their schedule they've also had some close calls. Specifically, in the last six games the Irish have beaten Pitt by five, Northwestern by 10 and USC by just seven. That's going to put some doubts in the minds of a lot of people, including us. Nevertheless, it's really tough to lay this many points with a freshman QB in this situation. We're going to lean to the under based on a Clemson freshman QB and an impenetrable Tiger defense. Thus, we have to go under the posted total of 55½.

TAKE: CLEMSON/ND UNDER 55½

ARIZONA BOWL December 29, 5:30 ET, Tucson, AZ

Nevada vs Arkansas State - PK

The Red Wolves are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 games overall and 15-7 ATS in their last 22 games following an ATS win. The Wolf Pack are 5-1 ATS in their last 6 games following a straight up loss, however, are 2-5-1 ATS in their last 8 Bowl games.

Nevada has a decent passing attack however, they do have some issues with turnovers and we're concerned Ty Gangi might have some trouble against the Red Wolves passing defense that ranks 12th in College Football. Arkansas State has a solid QB that should find some success against the Wolf Pack defense that struggled more against the pass and I think the Red Wolves do enough in this one to win and cover.

TAKE: ARKANSAS STATE - PK

ORANGE BOWL December 29, 8:00 ET, Miami, FL

Oklahoma vs Alabama - 14 & 77

Over is 5-0 in Oklahoma Sooners last 5 games following a ATS win and over is 11-1 in Oklahoma Sooners last 12 games on grass and over is 7-1 in Oklahoma Sooners last 8 games following a straight up win. Over is 4-0 in Alabama Crimson Tide last 4 non-conference games and Alabama Crimson Tide are 5-0 ATS in their last 5 games after allowing more than 280 yards passing in their previous game and over is 5-0 in Alabama Crimson Tide last 5 vs. Big 12. We know the spread is huge but we think Alabama scores at will and Heisman Oklahoma will score also to push this one over the total of 77.

TAKE: OUIBAMA OVER 77

THIS BOWL ISSUE BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Game of Year	Best Bet
CFB	Miami Under 48 Wisconsin	Purdue + 4½	Syracuse - Pk	Michigan - 6	ND/Clemson Under 55½

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