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GAME OF THE CENTURY TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS at GEORGIA BULLDOGS

NCAA Landscape

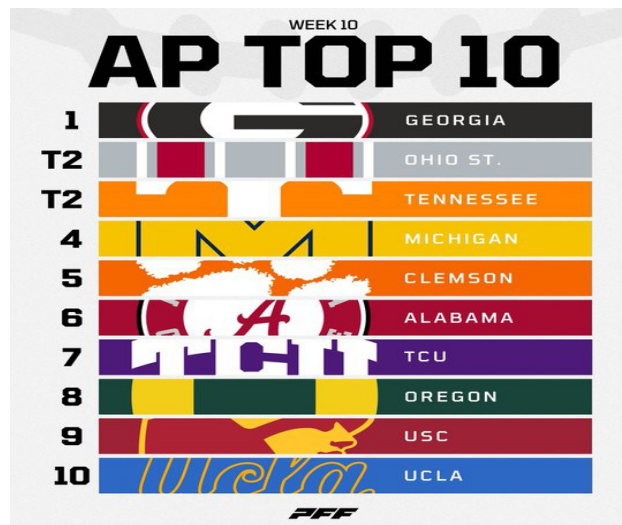
Associated Press college football poll voters gave this Saturday's game between No. 1 Georgia and No. 2 Tennessee extra juice when they moved the Volunteers up into a tie for second with Ohio State in the latest poll.

It will be the first regular season meeting between teams ranked Nos. 1 and 2 in the AP poll since LSU and Alabama met in 2019.

Those teams met as the top two ranked teams during the 2011 season as well. The last regular season meeting between the AP's No. 1 and No. 2 teams that wasn't between Alabama and LSU was on Nov. 18, 2006, when No. 1 Ohio State beat No. 2 Michigan 42-39. The Buckeyes and Wolverines are this week's third- and fourth-ranked teams in the AP poll.

Saturday's game will be the first time Georgia and Tennessee meet with both ranked in the top ten since Oct. 8, 2005 when No. 5 Georgia beat No. 8 Tennessee 27-14.

It will be strength versus strength when the two teams square off. Tennessee leads the country with 49.4 points per game and Georgia's scoring defense is second-best in the country, allowing an average of 10.5 points. "College Gameday" announced it was heading to Athens for the biggest game of the season. Here's the latest AP Top 10.



College Football: Winners and Losers from Week 9

Georgia and Ohio State both survived brief scares to remain undefeated and headline Week 9 in college football.

After racing out to early leads on Florida and Penn State, respectively, the nation's two highest-ranked teams both needed a late surge to ice their victories. Along the way, Ohio State enjoyed a breakout day—and one of the best performances from anyone in 2022—by a former top recruit.

But as Georgia and Ohio State fans celebrate another win, the mood is considerably worse at soon-to-be former Top 10 programs Oklahoma State and Wake Forest because of ugly losses.

Winner: Utah's Backup Hero

On Thursday night, I flipped on the television to watch Cameron Rising lead No. 14 Utah into a Pac-12 clash with Washington State. Only problem? The quarterback spent the evening on the sideline. After the game, Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said Rising himself determined he wasn't healthy enough to play.

He stepped Bryson Barnes for the opportunity of his football life. And the walk-on backup crushed it. Barnes completed 17-of-27 passes for 175 yards with one touchdown and no interceptions. He added 51 yards on eight carries, guiding Utah—which also didn't have running back Tavion Thomas and received only three touches from Micah Bernard—to an important 21-17 win at Wazzu.

Utah, which is 6-2 with a 4-1 mark in Pac-12 play, remains a front-runner to win the conference thanks to Barnes' excellent, unexpected effort.

Loser: Penn State vs. J.T. Tuimoloau

No. 13 Penn State had absolutely zero answers for Tuimoloau, who collected six tackles with three for loss and two sacks. He snagged two interceptions—with a game-sealing pick-six in the fourth quarter—broke up another pass and forced a fumble in No. 2 Ohio State's 44-31 victory.

Tuimoloau's long-anticipated breakout day highlighted a crucial win for the Buckeyes. They improved to 8-0 and inched ever-closer to a likely winner-takes-the-division tilt against rival Michigan in the regular-season finale.

Penn State, on the other hand, formally exits the Big Ten championship race with its second conference loss.

Winner: UConn! Again!

Among the many fun storylines of 2022, Connecticut's sudden rise out of the cellar has been one of the most unanticipated topics. Randy Edsall's second tenure at UConn became an unmitigated disaster. During his three-plus years, the Huskies—who also opted out of the 2020 season—trudged to a 6-32 record. They never had a good defense, and the 2018 unit was, quite literally, historically bad.

Late in 2021, UConn hired former NFL and UCLA coach Jim Mora in hopes of reviving a dying program. What he's already accomplished is incredible.

UConn defeated Boston College 13-3, beating a Power Five team for the first time since 2016 and forcing five turnovers in a game for the first time in 11 years.

Most notably, the Huskies secured their fourth win of the season. They hadn't crested three wins since 2015, which is also the most recent year UConn made a bowl appearance.

UConn is a long, long way from competing nationally, sure. But this is a remarkable season for the Mora-led team.

Loser: Oklahoma State's Big 12 Hopes

Two weeks ago, Oklahoma State lost a heart-breaker to TCU in double overtime. But the Pokes rebounded last Saturday with a comeback win over Texas, staying near the top of the Big 12 championship race.

Rather emphatically, however, No. 22 Kansas State put a sizable dent in No. 9 Oklahoma State's dream of returning to the conference title game. You know, as 48-0 blowouts tend to do.

Will Howard, once again replacing injured quarterback Adrian Martinez, threw for 296 yards and four touchdowns. Deuce Vaughn added 176 scrimmage yards and two scores, and the Wildcats handed OSU its worst loss in series history.

Oklahoma State isn't entirely out of the Big 12 running, but it won't have a tiebreaker edge on either TCU or K-State. That could be very problematic in the final standings for last season's Big 12 runner-up.

Winner: Louisville Stomps Wake Forest

Given that No. 10 Wake Forest entered only as a slight favorite, Louisville's victory was no surprise. How the Cardinals won, though, was the real surprise.

After falling behind 14-13, Louisville rattled off 35 consecutive points in a stellar third quarter. Kei'Trel Clark's pick-six sparked a dominant frame that included a jaw-dropping six takeaways by UL's defense, which Quincy Riley capped with another pick-six as the quarter expired.

During that unfathomable stretch, Wake Forest QB Sam Hartman tossed three interceptions and lost three fumbles. Wake entered the contest with five giveaways all season. "Disastrous" only begins to describe the afternoon. Louisville rolled to a 48-21 win, securing its first victory over an AP Top 10 opponent in 20 years.

Loser: Cincinnati's AAC Streak

Cincinnati made history as the first non-power program to reach the College Football Playoff in 2021, but the program is far more than a one-year wonder

Luke Fickell has built the Bearcats into an annual power. During the previous four seasons, they registered a 44-7 record. Cincinnati then entered Week 9's matchup with UCF holding a 6-1 mark this season, also boasting 19 consecutive wins against conference opponents.

But the streak is over. UCF rebounded from a disappointing loss to East Carolina, knocking off the 20th-ranked Bearcats behind RJ Harvey's last-minute touchdown. Harvey scampered in from 17 yards out to give UCF a 25-21 victory.

More than anything, the result intensified the AAC race. UCF, Cincinnati and Houston each own a 3-1 mark in conference games and will be battling for a spot in the league title game.

Winner: UGA, UT, You and Me

Get ready, Athens. There's a showdown coming your way. On Saturday afternoon, top-ranked Georgia sprinted out to a 28-3 lead on Florida and ultimately improved to 8-0. Florida made a brief comeback in the second half and trimmed the deficit to eight, but UGA's powerful rushing attack keyed a 42-20 victory.

In the evening, No. 3 Tennessee cruised past No. 19 Kentucky 44-6 for yet another comfortable win. Hendon Hooker bolstered his Heisman Trophy resume, totaling four touchdowns in the Vols' fifth Top 25 triumph of the season.

Tennessee's win formally locked in a Saturday battle of the Top 2 teams with SEC and national implications next weekend.

These matchups are part of why we love college football. Can't wait.

Loser: Pac-12 Refs

While it's undoubtedly easier to notice when Pac-12 referees mess up because we're hyper-aware, the league's poor officiating reputation is deserved—and continually proven over and over and over.

Shortly before halftime, Caleb Williams completed a 34-yard pass to Brenden Rice at Arizona's 10-yard line. Although the Trojans didn't have any timeouts remaining, the clock stopped with five seconds left.

The time is not supposed to run until the ball is set, so USC should've had time to spike the ball and set up a field-goal attempt.

Despite that simple, long-standing rule, all five seconds ticked away before the official spotted the ball for USC. Even after discussion, the call on the field did not change. Mistakes happen. That, however, is pure negligence.

Winner: Drake Maye

I'm not saying Drake Maye is the Heisman Trophy front-runner. I'm not even predicting he'll have a top-five finish in the voting. I am telling you to take UNC's quarterback seriously.

That's not simply a reflection of his most recent performance, though it was another excellent one. Maye threw for 388 yards and five touchdowns, rushed for another 61 yards and propelled the No. 21 Tar Heels to a 42-24 win against Pitt that included a 10-point second-half comeback, too.

Maye, a first-year starter, has surpassed 3,000 total yards and accounted for 32 touchdowns in just eight games. North Carolina has quietly crept to 7-1 and looks like a formidable obstacle for Clemson in the ACC. Maye, in the meantime, is deserving of some Heisman love right now.

Loser: Michigan's Red-Zone Offense

Michigan is a very strong team, but a growing concern is the Wolverines' red-zone offense.

Heading into Week 9, Michigan found the end zone on 26 of its 39 trips inside the 20-yard line. That 66.7 touchdown rate checked in a modest—not great, not bad—46th nationally.

Two weeks ago, Penn State managed to stick around in a game Jim Harbaugh's team dominated because of red-zone defense. Michigan settled for a trio of field goals during the opening half, ultimately kicking on four of its six red-zone possessions.

Then last Saturday, rival Michigan State forced U-M into three more red-zone field goals in five drives. MSU barely moved the ball yet only trailed 19-7 entering the fourth quarter.

Michigan is still winning comfortably—as they did 29-7 over MSU—thanks to a stingy defense. Field goals probably won't cut it against the elite competition that stands in the way of Big Ten and national titles, though.



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COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

UCONN - 13½ Over UMASS by 21

The Umass Minutemen and UConn Huskies meet in week 10 college football action at Pratt & Whitney Stadium.

The Umass Minutemen look to snap a 5-game losing streak. The UConn Huskies look to get back to a .500 record.

The Umass Minutemen quarterback Gino Campiotti is completing 44.6 percent of his passes for 257 yards, 1 touchdown and 6 interceptions.

George Johnson III and Cameron Sullivan-Brown have combined for 383 receiving yards and 1 touchdown, while Isaac Ross has 6 receptions.

The Umass Minutemen ground game is averaging 166.3 yards per contest, and Campiotti leads the way with 380 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Defensively, Umass is allowing 30.9 points and 379.9 yards per game. Jalen Mackie leads the Umass Minutemen with 56 tackles, Marcus Cushnie has 3.5 sacks and Jordan Mahoney has 4 interceptions.

The UConn Huskies have won 3 of their last 4 home games.

Connecticut quarterback Zion Turner is completing 60.7 percent of his passes for 963 yards, 8 touchdowns and 4 interceptions.

Aaron Turner and Kevens Clercius have combined for 552 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns, while Justin Joly has 13 receptions.

The UConn Huskies ground game is averaging 178 yards per contest, and Nathan Carter leads the way with 405 yards and 1 touchdown.

Defensively, UConn is allowing 26.2 points and 388.1 yards per game. Jackson Mitchell leads the UConn Huskies with 100 tackles, Eric Watts has 4.5 sacks and Tre Wortham has 3 interceptions.

The Minutemen are 7-20 ATS in their last 27 road games and 4-10 ATS in their last 14 games overall. The Huskies are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 home games and 5-0 ATS in their last 5 games overall. The under is 5-1 in Minutemen last 6 games overall. The under is 4-0 in Huskies last 4 games overall.

It's weird seeing the UCONN Huskies in the big favorite role, and there's a bit of a letdown spot here after their win last week over Boston College.

However, the Massachusetts Minutemen make a case as the worst team in the country, as they don't get stops defensively and the offense is 130th in total offense and 131st in scoring offense.

Let's reiterate, the Minutemen are 7-20 ATS in their last 27 road games and 4-10 ATS in their last 14 games overall. The Huskies are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 home games and 5-0 ATS in their last 5 games overall.

Backing UMass is simply not an option. It's the UConn Huskies taking a big bite out of the Minutemen asses. Lay the points with the hungry Huskies.

Projected Score: Connecticut 31, Massachusetts 10



COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

Ohio State - 38 Over NORTHWESTERN by 28

The Ohio State Buckeyes and Northwestern Wildcats meet Saturday in week 10 college football action at Ryan Field.

The Ohio State Buckeyes look for their second 9-0 start in the last 4 years. The Northwestern Wildcats look to snap a 7-game losing streak.

The Ohio State Buckeyes have won 6 of their last 7 road games. C.J. Stroud is completing 71.3 percent of his passes for 2,377 yards, 29 touchdowns and 4 interceptions.

Emerka Egbuka and Marvin Harrison Jr. have combined for 1,571 receiving yards and 17 touchdowns, while Julian Fleming has 19 receptions.

The Ohio State Buckeyes ground game is averaging 191.5 yards per contest, and TreVeyon Henderson leads the way with 552 yards and 6 touchdowns. Defensively,

Ohio State is allowing 16.9 points and 270.1 yards per game. Tommy Eichenberg leads the Ohio State Buckeyes with 72 tackles, Javontae Jean-Baptiste has 3 sacks and Tanner McCalister has 3 interceptions.

The Northwestern Wildcats have lost 6 straight home games.

Ryan Hilinski is completing 57.4 percent of his passes for 1,551 yards, 6 touchdowns and 6 interceptions.

Malik Washington and Evan Hull have combined for 931 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns, while Donny Navarro III has 29 receptions.

The Northwestern Wildcats ground game is averaging 113.4 yards per contest, and Hull leads the way with 579 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Defensively, Northwestern is allowing 28.8 points and 406.5 yards per game. Bryce Gallagher leads the Northwestern Wildcats with 79 tackles, Adetomiwa Adebawore has 4 sacks and Xander Mueller has 2 interceptions.

The Buckeyes are 3-1-1 ATS in their last 5 conference games and 4-1-1 ATS in their last 6 games overall.

The Wildcats are 0-4 ATS in their last 4 home games and 3-8 ATS in their last 11 games overall. The over is 6-0 in Buckeyes last 6 games overall. The under is 56-22-1 in Wildcats last 79 home games.

The Buckeyes are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 meetings in Northwestern and 7-2 ATS in their last 9 meetings.

The Ohio State Buckeyes are more than capable of blowing the doors off here, but there's a bit of a letdown spot after their win over Penn State, and this will be their third road game in their last 4 contests.

There's also a good chance this is a rainy, chilly game, and that's certainly going to limit the passing attack. This is an obvious down year for the Northwestern Wildcats and I don't believe they can do much to counter OSU.

But the schedule spot and the potential bad weather gives the home team a chance to stay within the large number. Furthermore head coach Ryan Day is not going to take a chance with his starters in this spot. It makes sense for the Buckeyes to get up big and sit their starters in the second half. This can open up the back door for a cover. The massive bundle of points with the Wildcats.

Projected Score: Ohio State 41, Northwestern 13

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

VIRGINIA TECH - 3½ Over Georgia Tech by 14

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets and Virginia Tech Hokies meet Saturday in week 10 college football action at Lane Stadium.

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets need a win after losing 4 of their last 6 games. The Virginia Tech Hokies look to snap a 5-game losing streak.

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets have lost 5 of their last 6 road games.

Jeff Sims is completing 58.5 percent of his passes for 1,115 yards, 5 touchdowns and 3 interceptions.

Nate McCollum and E.J. Jenkins have combined for 612 receiving yards and 4 touchdowns, while Malachi Carter has 14 receptions.

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets ground game is averaging 130.1 yards per contest, and Hassan Hall leads the way with 417 yards on 83 carries.

Defensively, Georgia Tech is allowing 28.1 points and 426 yards per game. Ayinde Eley leads the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets with 82 tackles, Keion White has 4 sacks and Charlie Thomas has 2 interceptions.

The Virginia Tech Hokies have lost 5 of their last 8 home games.

Grant Wells is completing 58.7 percent of his passes for 1,682 yards, 8 touchdowns and 7 interceptions.

Kaleb Smith and Da'Wain Lofton have combined for 744 receiving yards and 4 touchdowns, while Nick Gallo has 23 receptions.

The Virginia Tech Hokies ground game is averaging 101.5 yards per contest, and Keshawn King leads the way with 259 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Defensively, Virginia Tech is allowing 24.8 points and 357.1 yards per game. Dax Hollifield leads the Virginia Tech Hokies with 59 tackles, TyJuan Garbutt has 3.5 sacks and Armani Chatman has 1 interception.

The Yellow Jackets are 3-8 ATS in their last 11 conference games and 4-12 ATS in their last 16 games overall.

The Hokies are 3-7 ATS in their last 10 home games and 6-13 ATS in their last 19 games overall.

The under is 8-2 in Yellow Jackets last 10 games overall. The under is 6-2 in Hokies last 8 games overall.

The Yellow Jackets are 7-0 ATS in their last 7 meetings in Virginia Tech. The underdog is 13-3 ATS in their last 16 meetings.

I'm not running to the window to lay chalk with the Virginia Tech. The Hokies can't get out of their own way, but they were competitive in their last effort and playing in Blacksburg is still no easy task.

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets don't do anything right on either side of the ball, and that includes being ranked 118th in total offense and 127th in scoring offense.

I know I said the Yellow Jackets are 7-0 ATS in their last 7 meetings in Virginia Tech. The underdog is 13-3 ATS in their last 16 meetings.

Well, this year the trend is not your friend. If Virginia Tech cant win this game by a touchdown at home, something is seriously wrong. They should win by two touchdowns. Give me the Hokies and lay the reasonable 3½.

Projected Score: Virginia Tech 28, Georgia Tech 14

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

CINCINNATI - 21 Over Navy by 11

The Navy Midshipmen and Cincinnati Bearcats meet Saturday in week 10 college football action at Nippert Stadium.

The Navy Midshipmen look for a win after splitting their last 6 games. The Cincinnati Bearcats look to build on their 6-2 record.

The Navy Midshipmen have lost 5 of their last 8 road games.

Tai Lavatai is completing 46.2 percent of his passes for 787 yards, 5 touchdowns and 3 interceptions. Jayden Umbarger and Vincent Terrell Jr. have combined for 437 receiving yards and 4 touchdowns, while Mark Walker has 9 receptions.

The Navy Midshipmen ground game is averaging 244.5 yards per contest, and Daba Fofana leads the way with 488 yards and 5 touchdowns.

Defensively, Navy is allowing 25.4 points and 364.4 yards per game. John Marshall leads the Navy Midshipmen with 61 tackles, Jacob Busic has 6 sacks and Elias Larry has 2 interceptions.

The Cincinnati Bearcats haven't lost a home game since November 2017.

Ben Bryant is completing 62.4 percent of his passes for 2,059 yards, 16 touchdowns and 6 interceptions.

Tyler Scott and Tre Tucker have combined for 1,053 receiving yards and 7 touchdowns, while Jadon Thompson has 16 receptions.

The Cincinnati Bearcats ground game is averaging 144.4 yards per contest, and Charles McClelland leads the way with 667 yards and 6 touchdowns.

Defensively, Cincinnati is allowing 22.4 points and 330.4 yards per game. Ivan Pace Jr. leads the Cincinnati Bearcats with 83 tackles, Jowon Briggs has 3 sacks and Ja'von Hicks has 2 interceptions.

The Midshipmen are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 road games and 21-8 ATS in their last 29 games in November.

The Bearcats are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 home games and 0-3-1 ATS in their last 4 games overall.

The over is 4-0 in Midshipmen last 4 games overall. The under is 4-0 in Bearcats last 4 games overall.

The Cincinnati Bearcats are the better, more balanced team, they're money at home, and they'll be eager to bounce back after a loss to UCF.

However, the Navy Midshipmen hung around with a good Cincinnati team last season, and a lot of their games this year have been competitive.

Also, while Navy has issues, it's still one of the best rushing teams in the country and the ability to chew the clock gives them a chance to cover these big numbers.

The Midshipmen have been a money making machine over the years. The Midshipmen are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 road games and 21-8 ATS in their last 29 games in November.

Like I said, Navy hung around with a much better Cincinnati team and a much better offensive Bearcat unit last year. I'll grab the 3 free touchdowns.

Projected Score: Cincinnati 28, Navy 17

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

Tennessee + 9 Over Georgia by 3

The Tennessee Volunteers and the Georgia Bulldogs meet Saturday in college football action from Sanford Stadium.

Tennessee is coming off a matchup versus Kentucky. In that game the Volunteers took a blowout victory.

As for Georgia, they played Florida over the weekend. The Bulldogs would go on to win by 22 points.

Tennessee has had a couple of close matchups this year, but overall they've been on a good run and they're generally able to power out tight wins.

The Vols took out Ball State, Pittsburgh, Akron, Florida, LSU, Alabama and TN-Martin in their first seven outings.

Matched up against Kentucky, the Volunteers held a 27-6 edge by halftime. Tennessee scored in every quarter on the way to a 44-6 win.

Quarterback Hendon Hooker managed 245 yards with three scores.

Jalin Hyatt was tops in receiving on five catches, 138 yards and two TDs.

Over on the Georgia side, they've had a couple of relatively close escapes as well but generally they've been overpowering everyone who comes their way.

The Bulldogs kicked things off with wins over Oregon, Samford, South Carolina, Kent State, Missouri, Auburn and Vanderbilt.

In the Florida game, Georgia stormed out to a 28-3 halftime lead. The Bulldogs put up 14 more points in the second in a 42-20 victory.

QB Stetson Bennett finished with 316 yards, two TDs and two picks.

Daijun Edwards added 12 carries for 106 yards and two touchdowns.

The Vols are 4-0 ATS in their last four overall and 4-0 ATS in their last four on grass. Tennessee is 2-5 ATS in the last seven in November.

Meanwhile, the Bulldogs are 22-7 ATS in their last 29 after an ATS loss and the under is 7-2-1 in their last 10 overall. The over is 6-2 in Georgia's last eight in November.

The Volunteers offense has been rolling along this year; they've hit 34 or more points in all eight games so far. Tennessee drilled a good Kentucky team in their last appearance, notching 422 total yards, 19 first downs and zero turnovers in the blowout.

As for Georgia, they were steady as always in their last outing. The Bulldogs dropped 555 total yards, 26 first downs and 7.1 yards per play on Florida, but also gave away three turnovers.

The thing that stuck out to me was the difference in their schedule difficulty. Let's go back and take another look.

The Vols toughest opponents were Pittsburgh, Florida, LSU and Alabama this year. They beat them all with their powerful offense. The Bulldogs toughest opponents were Oregon, South Carolina,, Missouri and Auburn. See what I mean!

Hooker is having a better year than Bennett and against tougher opposition. This one should be a tougher test of Georgia's abilities, and I think Tennessee can get the cover, if not the outright win. Should be a great matchup.

Projected Score: Tennessee 34, Georgia 31



KEY MATCHUP RAMS AT BUCCANERS CAN BRADY FINALLY GET A WIN? WILL IT BE THE RAMS OR BUCS THAT GET BACK ON TRACK THIS SEASON

NFL Landscape

We're nearly halfway through the NFL regular season, and make no mistake about it, there's some serious trends. Hate to sound like a broken record here, but very little has changed recently. **The under is still hitting nearly 60%** of the time, the Eagles are still undefeated, the Buccaneers and Packers look lost and keep losing, and there's now a three-way tie for the best team against the spread.

Are the Eagles the next 1972 Dolphins or the next 2007 New England Patriots?

The only NFL team to ever go undefeated is the 1972 Miami Dolphins. The 2007 New England Patriots finished the regular season undefeated, but lost to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl. Is there a chance Philadelphia could be the next '72 Dolphins or '07 Patriots? It's certainly possible, but still, a little too early to tell.

The Eagles crushed the Steelers, 35-17, on Sunday, and they're heavily favored Thursday night against the 1-5-1 Houston Texans. And if you dare to look ahead at the Eagles remaining schedule, it's not all that difficult.

Philadelphia's toughest game will probably be on Christmas Eve on the road against Dallas, but outside of that — two games against the Giants, home vs. Washington, Tennessee, Green Bay and New Orleans, and on the road against Chicago and Indianapolis — running the table is certainly possible. Ten consecutive wins to close out the regular season is certainly a tall task, but it's definitely something to keep an eye on moving forward.

Unders on pace to hit again

The under failed to finish .500 or better for the first time this season in week eight, however, the under is still hitting 58% of the time. Denver and Indianapolis are the two best teams against the under at 7-1, while Buffalo is just one game behind at 6-1.

Atlanta fails to cover spread for second straight week, now tied for best ATS record. Atlanta (-4) failed to cover the spread this week by a point, and are now tied with Dallas and the New York Giants at 6-2 for the best ATS record. The Cowboys blew out the Bears, 49-29, on Sunday, and now covered the spread in consecutive weeks. And despite failing to cover as an underdog for the first time this season after losing to Seattle, 27-13, the Giants are still 6-2 against the spread.

Cashed out too soon

One bettor would have won over \$25,000 on a four-leg multi-touchdown parlay, but cashed out after the first three legs hit. The bettor put \$10 on Alvin Kamara, A.J. Brown, Jaylen Waddle and Derrick Henry to each record 2+ touchdowns, and all four did. Despite cashing out after Kamara, Brown and Waddle each scored 2+ touchdowns during the noon slate of games, they still made nearly \$2,500.

Road teams keep winning in International Series

The NFL resumed its International Series on Sunday morning, and the designated "road team" has yet to lose after Denver rallied late in the fourth quarter to defeat Jacksonville, 21-17. The next international game is in two weeks in Germany, where Tampa Bay will serve as the home team against Seattle.

Heading into Week 9

If you thought it couldn't get any worse for Tampa Bay and Green Bay, you thought wrong. The Bucs have now dropped three straight games after losing to the Ravens on Thursday night, and Tom Brady is now two games under .500 for the first time in his 23-year NFL career.

Meanwhile, Aaron Rodgers and the Packers have lost four straight games for the first time since 2016 after losing to Buffalo on Sunday night. To top it off, Green Bay is now 3.5 games behind Minnesota for first in the NFC North.

Detroit remains the worst team in the NFL after losing its fifth straight game to the Miami Dolphins on Sunday. The Lions are now 1-6 on the season, but face the slumping Packers at home next week.

The NFC South still remains the only division in football without a team above .500. However, Atlanta did take sole possession of first place in the NFC South after defeating the Carolina Panthers in overtime on Sunday.

Last Week's Top Performers				Week 8 Passing Leaders			
Alvin Kamara (NOR):	9 rec,	96 yds,	2 TD		Cmp/Att	Yds	TD's
A.J. Brown (PHI):	6 rec,	156 yds,	3 TD	Tua Tagovailoa (MIA)	29/36	382	3
Christian McCaffrey (SFO):	18 rush,	94 yds,	1TD	Zach Wilson (NYJ)	20/41	355	2
Derrick Henry (TEN):	32 rush,	219 yds,	2 TD	Kyler Murray (ARI)	31/44	326	3
Tony Pollard (DAL):	14 rush,	131 yds,	3 TD	Tom Brady (TAM)	26/44	325	1
D'Onta Foreman (CAR):	26 rush,	118 yds,	3 TD	Jared Goff (DET)	27/37	321	1
Tua Tagovailoa (MIA):	29/36,	382 yds,	3 TD				
Jalen Hurts (PHI):	19/28,	285 yds,	4 TD				
DeAndre Hopkins (ARI):	12 rec,	159 yds,	1 TD				
Jaylen Waddle (MIA):	8 rec,	106 yds,	2 TD				
Last Week's Rushing Leaders				Last Week's Receiving Leaders			
	Att	Yds	TD's		Rec	Yds	TD's
Derrick Henry (TEN)	32	219	2TD	Tyreek Hill (MIA)	12	188	0
Travis Etienne (JAX)	24	156	1TD	DeAndre Hopkins (ARI)	12	159	1
Aaron Jones (GNB)	20	143	0TD	A.J. Brown (PHI)	6	156	3
Tony Pollard (DAL)	14	131	3TD	D.J. Moore (CAR)	6	152	1
D'Onta Foreman (CAR)	26	118	3TD	Mike Evans (TAM)	6	123	0

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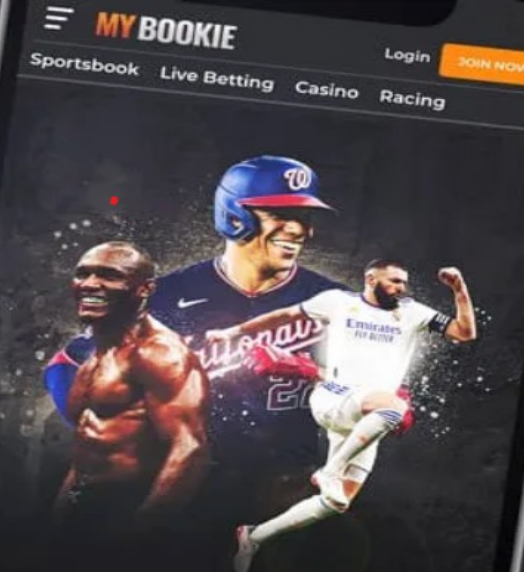
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PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Philadelphia – 9½ (13) Over HOUSTON by 23

The Philadelphia Eagles and Houston Texans meet Thursday in week 9 NFL action at NRG Stadium.

The Philadelphia Eagles look for their first 8-0 start in franchise history. The Houston Texans look to rebound from a 1-5-1 start.

The Philadelphia Eagles have won 5 straight road games.

Jalen Hurts is completing 67 percent of his passes for 1,799 yards, 10 touchdowns and 2 interceptions.

A.J. Brown and Dallas Goedert have combined for 1,080 receiving yards and 6 touchdowns, while DeVonta Smith has 38 receptions.

The Philadelphia Eagles ground game is averaging 149.6 yards per contest, and Miles Sanders leads the way with 563 yards and 5 touchdowns.

Defensively, Philadelphia is allowing 16.9 points and 298.1 yards per game. T.J. Edwards leads the Philadelphia Eagles with 68 tackles, Haason Reddick has 5.5 sacks and C.J. Gardner-Johnson has 4 interceptions.

The Houston Texans are 1-9-1 SU in their last 11 home games.

Davis Mills is completing 63.1 percent of his passes for 1,502 yards, 8 touchdowns and 6 interceptions.

Brandin Cooks and Nico Collins have combined for 659 receiving yards and 1 touchdown, while Jordan Akins has 11 receptions.

The Houston Texans ground game is averaging 92.4 yards per contest, and Dameon Pierce leads the way with 539 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Defensively, Houston is allowing 22 points and 403.6 yards per game. Jonathan Owens leads the Houston Texans with 58 tackles, Jerry Hughes has 5 sacks and Jalen Pitre has 2 interceptions.

The Eagles are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 road games and 5-1 ATS in their last 6 games overall.

The Texans are 3-10 ATS in their last 13 Thursday games and 1-3-1 ATS in their last 5 games overall.

The under is 4-1 in Eagles last 5 road games. The under is 5-1 in Texans last 6 games in November. The Eagles are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 meetings. The favorite is 4-0 ATS in their last 4 meetings.

There's no reason to really consider the Houston Texans here other than it being a short week and when sluggish low scoring games tend to take place. The Philadelphia Eagles are the clearly the better team across the board, with an offense that's third in scoring and a defense that's fourth in scoring.

This has the potential to get ugly real fast. However, the Texans have been more competitive than their record suggests, and 4 of their 5 losses have been decided by 10 or fewer points. In fact, the Texans 5 losses have come by an average of 9 points.

The only reason you would back the Texans is if you believed they would stay under the pointspread. The Eagles allow an average of 16 points per game against much tougher competition.

Eagles Hurt to AJ Brown is a hot combo right now. Eagles should soar over the 30 point mark. Complete mismatch, I'll lay the lumber on the road. Whoa, line just jumped to a justifiable 13. Nevertheless, we're still on the Eagles.

Projected Score: Philadelphia 33, Houston 10

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Green Bay - 3 Over DETROIT by 14

The Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions meet Sunday in NFL action from Ford Field.

Green Bay is coming off a 10-point loss to the Bills last weekend.

As for the Lions, they fell to the Dolphins by four points in their last outing.

Green Bay started out the season with a loss to the Vikings, then won three straight versus the Bears, Buccaneers and Patriots. The Packers have suffered a four-game slide since then however, losing to the Giants, Jets, Commanders and Bills.

In the matchup versus Buffalo over the weekend, the Packers were down 24-7 by halftime. Green Bay got better after the break but still lost 27-17. QB Aaron Rodgers managed 203 yards with two TDs and a pick. Aaron Jones rushed 20 times for 143 yards.

Over on the Lions' side, they lost their opener to the Eagles this year but bounced back for a win over the Commanders in game two. Detroit would then rattle off losses to the Vikings, Seahawks, Patriots, Cowboys and Dolphins over the next five outings.

In the Dolphins game, the Lions came out of halftime with a 27-17 lead. Detroit was shut out 14-0 in the second half however, and ended up losing 31-27. Quarterback Jared Goff managed 321 yards with a TD, and Jamaal Williams led the rush on 10 carries, 53 yards and two scores.

The Packers are 4-1 ATS in their last five in November and 10-4 ATS in their last 14 after an ATS win. Green Bay is 2-5 ATS in their last seven versus the NFC.

Meanwhile, the Lions are 5-0 ATS in their last five versus the NFC North and 9-3 ATS in their last 12 after an ATS loss. Detroit is 8-3 ATS in their last 11 versus the NFC.

Truth is, it's tough to trust either one of these teams right now though. Green Bay fell to a good Buffalo team in their last game, posting 398 yards, 21 first downs and 33:48 in time of possession along the way.

Defensively the Packers had issues stopping the Buffalo offense (who averaged 6.8 yards per play) however. But then again, who doesn't have issues trying to stop the Bills offense.

As for Detroit, they had a great first half against Miami but fell apart after the break. The Lions gave up 476 yards and 7.4 yards per play to the Dolphins in the loss.

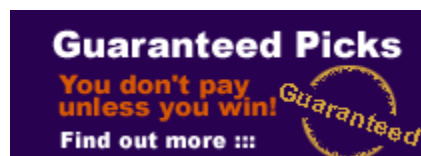
Green Bay may not be able to muster up that type of offense these days as Rodgers has yet to throw for 300 yards in a game. Nevertheless, the Packers Aaron Jones rushed 20 times for 143 yards against a stout Buffalo defense.

It's desperation time for the Packers, and the Lions are the remedy to get back on track to make a rush for the playoffs.

The Packers defense played really hard and good in the second half against the Bills. The same type of effort will be there in this must win game.

Like I said, the Packers are in desperation mode and it's not a good time for the Lions to be playing the Packers. I'll lay the reasonable points and take the Packers in a comfortable win and cover.

Projected Score: Green Bay 34, Detroit 20



PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

CINCINNATI - 7 Over Carolina by 21

The Carolina Panthers and Cincinnati Bengals meet Sunday in week 9 NFL action at Paycor Stadium.

The Carolina Panthers need a win after losing 4 of their last 5 games. The Cincinnati Bengals look to get a game above a .500 record.

The Carolina Panthers have lost 7 straight road games.

PJ Walker is completing 62.5 percent of his passes for 614 yards, 3 touchdowns and 1 interception.

DJ Moore and Terrace Marshall Jr. have combined for 573 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns, while Laviska Shenault Jr. has 8 receptions.

The Carolina Panthers ground game is averaging 110.5 yards per contest, and D'Onta Foreman leads the way with 273 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Defensively, Carolina is allowing 23.3 points and 358.6 yards per game. Shaq Thompson leads the Carolina Panthers with 59 tackles, Brian Burns has 5 sacks and Donte Jackson has 2 interceptions.

The Cincinnati Bengals have won 7 of their last 10 home games.

Joe Burrow is completing 69.2 percent of his passes for 2,329 yards, 17 touchdowns and 6 interceptions.

Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins have combined for 1,109 receiving yards and 9 touchdowns, while Tyler Boyd has 32 receptions.

The Cincinnati Bengals ground game is averaging 81 yards per contest, and Joe Mixon leads the way with 432 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Defensively, Cincinnati is allowing 20.5 points and 336 yards per game. Germaine Pratt leads the Cincinnati Bengals with 59 tackles, Trey Hendrickson has 3.5 sacks and Vonn Bell has 4 interceptions.

The Panthers are 1-6 ATS in their last 7 road games and 5-17 ATS in their last 22 games overall.

The Bengals are 6-1 ATS in their last 7 home games and 13-3 ATS in their last 16 games overall.

The under is 5-2 in Panthers last 7 games overall.

The under is 10-2-1 in Bengals last 13 games overall.

The Panthers are 3-1-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings. The favorite is 3-1-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings.

The Carolina Panthers are finding ways to compete despite ownership doing whatever they can to tank, but the way they lost last week could be a crushing blow to their confidence moving forward.

Speaking of confidence, the Cincinnati Bengals should be laser focused after getting waxed on Monday night to a subpar Browns squad.

The hopes of a potential trap game for the Bengals is gone with how things played out last week. With a bye week ahead for the Bengals, you should get a better effort from the better team.

Also, the shoe has to fall for the Panthers eventually. Give me the Bengals for an easy win and cover.

Projected Score: Cincinnati 34, Carolina 13

Gridiron Gold Guaranteed Picks "If You Don't Win, You Don't Pay"

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

TAMPA BAY - 2½ Over LA Rams by 13

The Los Angeles Rams and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers meet Sunday in NFL action from Raymond James Stadium.

Los Angeles is 3-4 so far and coming off a loss to the 49ers.

As for the Buccaneers, they're sitting at 3-5 following a loss to the Ravens last Thursday.

Los Angeles went 2-3 over their first five games this year, beating the Falcons and Cardinals while otherwise falling to the Bills, 49ers and Cowboys. The Rams stopped the bleeding with a win over the Panthers, but then fell to the 49ers again last weekend.

In the 49ers game on Sunday, the Rams had a 14-10 lead going into halftime. Los Angeles fell apart in the second half and was outscored 21-0 on the way to a 31-14 loss.

QB Matthew Stafford put up 187 yards and a TD, while Cooper Kupp caught eight balls for 79 yards and a TD.

Over on the Buccaneers' side, they went 3-2 over their first five games. The wins were versus the Cowboys, Saints and Falcons; the losses came to the Packers and Chiefs.

Tampa Bay would then hit a losing streak, falling to the Steelers, Panthers and Ravens.

Last Thursday versus the Ravens, Tampa Bay went into halftime with a 10-3 lead. The Buccaneers were outscored 24-12 from there in a 27-22 loss.

QB Tom Brady threw for 325 yards and a TD; Leonard Fournette had 24 rush yards and a score as well.

The Rams are 6-2 ATS in their last eight after a double-digit loss at home and 4-9 ATS in their last 13 after an ATS loss. LA is 2-5 ATS in their last seven versus the NFC.

Meanwhile, the Bucs are 0-6 ATS in their last six overall and 0-5 ATS in their last five after an ATS loss. Tampa is 0-7 ATS in their last seven on grass. To say the least, the Buccaneers haven't been great against the spread this year.

Tampa coughed up a lot of offense to the Ravens in their last game, including a whopping 231 rush yards and 27 first downs. That result left Tom Brady and company off the field for all but 21:37 in time of possession. The Bucs defense is going to have to sharpen up for this one.

As for LA, they came up with just 223 yards of offense and 16 first downs in the San Francisco loss.

That said, I like the Rams to play better, But Brady threw for over 300 yards last week even when his receivers dropped passes and ran their routes poorly.

The Bucs bounce back with a winning effort here at home. Brady and Fournette will have success and the Bucs defense should stall the Rams troubling offense. Bucs break their losing streak.

Projected Score: Tampa Bay 27, LA Rams 14

THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
CFB	UCONN - 13½	Northwestern + 38	Virginia T - 3½	Navy + 21	Tennessee + 9
NFL	Eagles - 9½ (13)	Packers - 3	Bengals - 7	Bucs - 2½	

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