

Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter

\$15

**5 NCAA & 4 NFL BEST BETS + PICKS FOR ALL GAMES
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Dennis Stagliano's Best Bets Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter

Volume 44 Issue 3

CFB Week 3, 2025

College football upsets: Week 2 of the 2025 college football season was a good reminder that any team can be upset at any time if they let their guard down. In total, 4 teams ranked in the top 16 fell in Week 2. Here's a recap.

Mississippi State 24, No. 10 Arizona State 20 - This may have been the most shocking upset of Week 2. Kenny Dillingham and Arizona State are coming off a Big 12 title and College Football Playoff berth in 2024, while Jeff Leiby and Mississippi State were coming off a 2-10 season. That did not matter early, as the Bulldogs jumped ahead 17-0 in the second quarter. The Sun Devils scored 20 straight points, including a go-ahead field goal from Jesus Gomez with 1:38 left in the game. However, Brenen Thompson caught a 58-yard touchdown pass from Blake Shapen with 30 seconds left to preserve the biggest upset of the day. The win was so big in Starkville that fans rushed the field and tore down the goalposts following the top-10 win.

No. 24 Oklahoma 24, No. 13 Michigan 13 - Oklahoma was the home team and a slight favorite over Michigan, but the lower-ranked team knocked off the higher-ranked team and that will cause a massive changeup in the rankings. John Mateer passed his biggest test so far as the Sooners' starting QB with a three-touchdown performance, as the Sooners never trailed. Brent Venables continues to make life very tough on freshman quarterbacks, as Bryce Underwood struggled in his first true road start.

South Florida 18, No. 15 Florida 16 - All the goodwill Napier built over the last few weeks of the 2024 season is gone, and he's right back on the hot seat with Florida fans following an ugly, undisciplined loss at home to the Bulls. The Gators' offense struggled in the red zone, committing 11 penalties for 103 yards — including Brendan Bett spitting on his opponent — and the defense could not get a stop on the final drive. Coupled with poor clock management from Napier, Alex Golesh picked up his signature win with USF. Nico Gramatica — the son of former NFL kicker Martin Gramatica — served as the hero at the end with his game-winning field goal.

Baylor 48, No. 16 SMU 45 - SMU led rival Baylor by double-digits on three separate occasions on Sept. 6, including a 38-24 lead with 8:38 left in the game. However, Sawyer Robertson connected with Kobe Prentice for a 21-yard touchdown with 34 seconds left to send the game to overtime. In the second overtime, Mustangs' kicker Collin Rogers missed a field goal, paving the way for Connor Hawkins to knock in his attempt to give the Bears the upset win over a rival. Baylor has now won 14 straight over SMU.

Army 24, Kansas State 21 - Kansas State's 2025 season continued to go sideways after a loss to Army. The Wildcats entered as 16.5-point favorites over the Black Knights, but Cale Hellums scored a 14-yard touchdown with 2:52 to help Army bounce back from a 30-27 loss to Tarleton State in Week 1. Avery Johnson threw an interception in Kansas State's final drive. Army beat the Wildcats 40:44 to 19:16 in terms of time of possession and rushed for over 200 yards.

Ohio 17, West Virginia 10 - Rich Rodriguez's honeymoon return to WVU ended after just 2 weeks. The Mountaineers struck first for a TD in the first quarter, but could not find the red zone again in the upset road loss. Ohio possessed the ball for 40:15 of the game clock and limited West Virginia to 250 total yards of offense. The Bobcats held a 17-7 halftime lead and basically played keep-away from Rodriguez's offense in the second half.

UNLV 30, UCLA 23 - Dan Mullen has UNLV off to a 3-0 start following an upset win over Nico Iamaleava and UCLA on Sept. 6. The win marked the Rebels' first victory over a Big Ten Conference opponent in 22 years. UCLA entered the game as 3.5-point favorites, but instead are off to a 0-2 start.

Jacksonville State 34, Liberty 24 - On a day Rodriguez lost at West Virginia, Charles Kelly picked up his biggest win as the Gamecocks coach. Jacksonville State entered as a 6.5-point underdog, but Cam Cook rushed for 195 yards and two touchdowns to help it come out with the upset victory.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BETS

Oklahoma at Temple

Philadelphia, PA • 12:00 pm ET • Oklahoma -21.5, 51.5

Oklahoma made a statement with their road win at Michigan, showing they have the balance on both sides of the ball to compete with anyone. The offense has been efficient, protecting the quarterback and running the ball effectively to keep defenses guessing. The real difference this season has been the defense, which has forced multiple turnovers and kept opponents under 300 yards in each of the first two games. Temple has had success early, but that came against far weaker competition. The Owls don't have the size or speed to hang with a program that recruits at Oklahoma's level. Temple's offensive line will be under siege against a relentless pass rush, and that will create short fields for the Sooners' offense. In a game where the underdog's best hope is to shorten possessions, they simply lack the tools to do it. Oklahoma has the depth to keep scoring even when the starters rotate out, making the backdoor less of a concern. Expect the Sooners to build a big lead early and put this away by halftime. **TAKE: Oklahoma -21.5**

Clemson at Georgia Tech

Atlanta, GA • 12:00 pm ET • Clemson -3.5, 52

Clemson has opened the year with a renewed identity: a stifling defense and an offense capable of hitting explosive plays when needed. The Tigers' defensive front has been outstanding, shutting down the run and forcing opponents into uncomfortable passing situations. On offense, they've struck a nice balance between pounding the ground game and mixing in efficient throws. Georgia Tech has flashed some big-play ability, but they've been inconsistent and too often rely on chunk plays rather than sustained drives. Against a defense as disciplined as Clemson's, that's a dangerous way to play. The Tigers have also historically handled the Jackets, winning the last several meetings by comfortable margins. In a short number like this, the matchup advantage in the trenches is the key. Georgia Tech may score once or twice off broken plays, but they won't be able to control the line of scrimmage long enough to keep it close. Clemson should pull away in the second half behind their superior defense and depth. **TAKE: Clemson -3.5**

Texas at UTEP

Austin, TX • 4:15 pm ET • Texas -41.5, 52

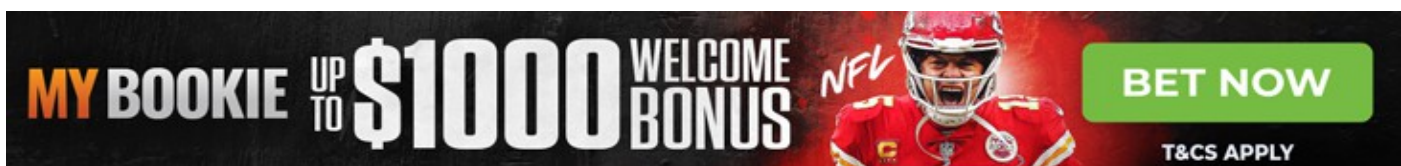
UTEP comes into this matchup completely outgunned, having struggled to score or stop anyone through their first two games. The Miners have averaged under 300 yards of offense while allowing over 450 per outing, a recipe for disaster against a team like Texas. The Longhorns, by contrast, have dominated both lines of scrimmage. Their run game has been punishing, while the defense has held opponents to just two touchdowns combined so far. Texas also has a knack for capitalizing on turnovers, creating short fields and extra scoring chances. Large spreads like this always raise questions about motivation and garbage-time points, but Texas is built with the kind of depth that keeps the pressure on late into games. Their second unit can still score, which means there's little risk of easing off the gas entirely. UTEP has no answer in the trenches and will be overwhelmed from the opening snap. Expect Texas to build a commanding halftime lead and continue stretching it as the game goes on. This sets up as one of the most lopsided results on the board.

TAKE: Texas -41.5

Arkansas at Ole Miss

Oxford, MS • 7:00 pm ET • Ole Miss -9, 61

Ole Miss continues to roll offensively, ranking among the nation's leaders in scoring with a spread attack that wears defenses down quickly. The Rebels push tempo and force opponents into shootouts, which is exactly the kind of game Arkansas doesn't mind playing either. The Razorbacks have an experienced quarterback who can extend plays and a ground game that has shown flashes of explosiveness. Their defense hasn't been airtight, but it's been opportunistic enough to create extra possessions. This matchup profiles as a back-and-forth battle where neither side can consistently get stops. Last year's meeting saw nearly 90 combined points, and both rosters return much of their offensive firepower. The total of 62 feels light when both sides are capable of hitting 30-plus, especially with Ole Miss' defensive weaknesses still present. Expect the Rebels to score early and often, while Arkansas matches them drive for drive. The game may ultimately tilt to the home side, but the smarter play is on the points piling up. **TAKE: Over 61**



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Boston College at Stanford

Stanford, CA • 10:30 pm ET • Boston College -10, 45

Boston College brings a physical edge that Stanford simply doesn't have right now. The Eagles have been strong at the point of attack, with an offensive line that opens holes and a defense that punishes mistakes. Stanford, on the other hand, is still very much a rebuilding program. Their offense has lacked rhythm, often stalling on third downs, and their defense has been porous, giving up big plays through the air and on the ground. BC's balance gives them the ability to control tempo, and their red-zone efficiency makes them dangerous when they cross midfield. In a game with a modest total, every possession matters, and Boston College has shown the ability to sustain drives and convert them into points. Stanford lacks the firepower to trade scores or the depth to hang in the trenches over four quarters. This is a clear mismatch in line play, and BC's physicality will show as the game wears on. Expect the Eagles to cover comfortably with a double-digit win. **TAKE: Boston College -10**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL QUICK PICK

NC State at Wake Forest

Winston-Salem, NC • 7:30 pm ET • NC State -7, 54.5

NC State's offense has been explosive but their secondary keeps leaving doors open. Wake brings a home field boost and a ground game capable of breaking big plays. **TAKE: Wake Forest +7**

Colorado at Houston

Houston, TX • 7:30 pm ET • Houston -4.5, 44

Colorado has struggled to sustain drives, while Houston has controlled tempo with a balanced attack. This shapes up as a tighter game than the number suggests. **TAKE: Colorado +4.5**

Kansas State at Arizona

Tucson, AZ • 9:00 pm ET • Kansas State -1.5, 54.5

Kansas State has been uneven, but their physical style and ability to finish at the goal line give them an edge. Arizona has shown flashes but may struggle against a stronger front. **TAKE: Kansas State -1.5**

New Mexico at UCLA

Pasadena, CA • 10:00 pm ET • UCLA -15.5, 53.5

New Mexico's offense has been stuck in neutral, while UCLA's talent level is simply superior. Points may come slower than expected in this matchup. **TAKE: Under 53.5**

Central Michigan at Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI • 12:00 pm ET • Michigan -27.5, 42.5

Central Michigan has been outmuscled early, and Michigan should dominate in the trenches. Expect enough offense to push the scoring above the posted total. **TAKE: Over 42.5**

Oklahoma at Temple

Philadelphia, PA • 12:00 pm ET • Oklahoma -24.5, 51.5

Oklahoma has looked like a playoff contender, handling both sides of the ball with ease. Temple is overmatched against this caliber of opponent. **TAKE: Oklahoma -24.5**

Wisconsin at Alabama

Tuscaloosa, AL • 12:00 pm ET • Alabama -20.5, 46.5

Wisconsin hasn't found offensive rhythm, while Alabama has rolled opponents early. The Tide win, but the cushion is rich enough to grab the points. **TAKE: Wisconsin +20.5**

Clemson at Georgia Tech

Atlanta, GA • 12:00 pm ET • Clemson -4, 52

Clemson's defense has been stingy and their offense has found rhythm. Georgia Tech has playmakers but has been inconsistent against stronger fronts. **TAKE: Clemson -4**

Oregon at Northwestern

Evanston, IL • 12:00 pm ET • Oregon -27.5, 52

Oregon's offense has looked unstoppable, but Northwestern plays a slower, grind-it-out style that shortens games. The Wildcats can keep this inside the big number. **TAKE: Northwestern +27.5**

Memphis at Troy

Troy, AL • 12:00 pm ET • Memphis -4.5, 50

Memphis has been efficient on both sides of the ball, while Troy's mistakes and penalties keep holding them back. The Tigers are better equipped to finish drives. **TAKE: Memphis -4.5**

Buffalo at Kent State

Kent, OH • 12:00 pm ET • Buffalo –21.5, 48

Neither team has found offensive consistency, and both have struggled to finish possessions. This game sets up as lower scoring than expected. **TAKE: Under 48**

South Alabama at Auburn

Auburn, AL • 12:45 pm ET • Auburn –25, 54

South Alabama has grit but lacks depth to hang in the trenches. Auburn's defense should dictate the game, limiting scoring chances. **TAKE: Under 54**

UConn at Delaware

Newark, DE • 3:00 pm ET • UConn –10, 52

UConn has been shaky and still searching for rhythm, while Delaware has the pieces to hang close at home. Expect a tight contest. **TAKE: Delaware +10**

Washington State at North Texas

Denton, TX • 3:30 pm ET • North Texas –5.5, 58

Washington State can score but gives it back just as easily on defense. North Texas has the run game and tempo to control the matchup. **TAKE: North Texas –5.5**

USC at Purdue

West Lafayette, IN • 3:30 pm ET • USC –21.5, 58

USC has been explosive on offense with multiple weapons stretching the field. Purdue's defense has been soft against big plays and doesn't match up well. **TAKE: USC –21.5**

SMU at Missouri State

Springfield, MO • 3:30 pm ET • SMU –28, 62

SMU has the firepower to score at will, but Missouri State's style can slow things down enough to hang close. This number is too steep for the Mustangs to cover. **TAKE: Missouri State +28**

Georgia at Tennessee

Knoxville, TN • 3:30 pm ET • Georgia –4.5, 50

Georgia's defense is elite, but Tennessee's tempo and home crowd can turn this into a shootout. This rivalry usually delivers points, and this year should be no different. **TAKE: Over 50**

Oregon State at Texas Tech

Lubbock, TX • 3:30 pm ET • Texas Tech –24, 61

Oregon State has been sloppy, while Texas Tech has been dominant at home with its tempo attack. Expect the Red Raiders to roll comfortably. **TAKE: Texas Tech –24**

Pittsburgh at West Virginia

Morgantown, WV • 3:30 pm ET • Pittsburgh –5.5, 58

Pitt has been uneven on offense but their defense can create short fields. West Virginia thrives at home, but Pitt matches up well here. **TAKE: Pittsburgh –5.5**

Louisiana at Missouri

Columbia, MO • 4:00 pm ET • Missouri –25, 48

Missouri has been efficient on both sides, while Louisiana lacks the depth to keep pace for four quarters. Expect points on both ends of this matchup. **TAKE: Over 48**

Iowa State at Arkansas State

Jonesboro, AR • 4:00 pm ET • Iowa State –21, 56

Iowa State's defense has been dominant, holding opponents to limited scoring chances. Arkansas State has struggled on both sides, making this a tough matchup. **TAKE: Iowa State –21**

UTEP at Texas

Austin, TX • 4:15 pm ET • Texas –41.5, 52

UTEP has struggled to move the ball and now faces one of the deepest rosters in the country. Texas should dominate every phase and pile on points. **TAKE: Texas –41.5**

South Florida at Miami

Miami, FL • 4:30 pm ET • Miami –16.5, 54

South Florida's offense has been inconsistent, while Miami's defense has clamped down early in games. This sets up for a lower-scoring outcome than projected. **TAKE: Under 54**

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Liberty at Bowling Green

Bowling Green, OH • 5:00 pm ET • Liberty -6, 52

Liberty has started sharp, but Bowling Green plays tough at home and has enough defense to muddy this game. This should stay closer than the number suggests. **TAKE: Bowling Green +6**

Middle Tennessee at Nevada

Reno, NV • 5:00 pm ET • Nevada -9, 46

Middle Tennessee has yet to find rhythm, but Nevada hasn't separated much either. Expect a slower tempo and fewer scoring chances. **TAKE: Under 46**

Florida Atlantic at Florida International

Miami, FL • 6:00 pm ET • FIU -1.5, 57

This rivalry tends to be scrappy, and FAU has shown more resilience defensively. FIU's offense is limited, giving the Owls a path to cover. **TAKE: FAU +1.5**

Arkansas at Ole Miss

Oxford, MS • 7:00 pm ET • Ole Miss -9, 62

Ole Miss can score with anyone, but Arkansas has the playmakers to trade punches in a shootout. Expect fireworks in Oxford. **TAKE: Over 62**

Ohio at Ohio State

Columbus, OH • 7:00 pm ET • Ohio State -32.5, 54

Ohio is overmatched in the trenches, and the Buckeyes have looked locked in on both sides. The favorite should extend comfortably. **TAKE: Ohio State -32.5**

Old Dominion at Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA • 7:00 pm ET • Virginia Tech -7.5, 50

Old Dominion has struggled to stop the run, and Virginia Tech's defense has been its strength. With Lane Stadium behind them, the Hokies should control the matchup. **TAKE: Virginia Tech -7.5**

Western Michigan at Illinois

Champaign, IL • 7:00 pm ET • Illinois -28, 52

Illinois has dominated on the ground and defensively, while Western Michigan lacks consistency on either side. Expect a comfortable Illini win, but points should come slower. **TAKE: Under 52**

Jacksonville State at Georgia Southern

Statesboro, GA • 7:00 pm ET • Georgia Southern -3, 57

Georgia Southern has been sharp offensively, while Jacksonville State relies heavily on the run. The Eagles' balance should give them the upper hand at home. **TAKE: Georgia Southern -3**

Appalachian State at Southern Miss

Hattiesburg, MS • 7:00 pm ET • Appalachian State -1, 54

App State is physical, but Southern Miss has proven pesky at home and matches up better than expected. This looks like a grinder with limited scoring. **TAKE: Under 54**

UMass at Iowa

Iowa City, IA • 7:30 pm ET • Iowa -34, 44

UMass has been outclassed up front in both games, while Iowa's defense has been smothering. Expect the Hawkeyes to suffocate the Minutemen. **TAKE: Iowa -34**

Texas A&M at Notre Dame

South Bend, IN • 7:30 pm ET • Notre Dame -6.5, 49

Notre Dame's offense has been efficient, but Texas A&M's defensive front keeps them in games. This matchup favors a lower-scoring battle. **TAKE: Under 49**

Eastern Michigan at Kentucky

Lexington, KY • 7:30 pm ET • Kentucky -24.5, 46

Eastern Michigan has struggled to move the ball, and Kentucky's speed should control the game. Expect the Wildcats to dictate tempo and cover comfortably. **TAKE: Kentucky -24.5**

Florida at LSU

Baton Rouge, LA • 7:30 pm ET • LSU -9.5, 50

Florida has struggled to finish drives, and LSU's depth on both lines should tilt the field. The Tigers' offense has too many weapons for the Gators to keep pace. **TAKE: LSU -9.5**

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New Mexico State at Louisiana Tech

Ruston, LA • 7:30 pm ET • Louisiana Tech -9.5, 42

New Mexico State hasn't found offensive rhythm, while Louisiana Tech has shown balance and a defense that creates stops. The Bulldogs should pull away at home. **TAKE: Louisiana Tech -9.5**

East Carolina at Coastal Carolina

Conway, SC • 7:30 pm ET • East Carolina -6.5, 56

ECU's offense has sputtered, while Coastal Carolina has the spacing and tempo to keep this close. The Chanticleers are live in front of their home crowd. **TAKE: Coastal Carolina +6.5**

Vanderbilt at South Carolina

Columbia, SC • 7:45 pm ET • South Carolina -5.5, 47

Vanderbilt's offense has been sharp early, while South Carolina has leaned on defense to win. This sets up as a competitive matchup decided late. **TAKE: Vanderbilt +5.5**

Duke at Tulane

New Orleans, LA • 8:00 pm ET • Tulane -3, 52

Duke has been efficient offensively, while Tulane thrives on creating turnovers and protecting home field. This should be a close, high-energy game. **TAKE: Duke +3**

Utah at Wyoming

Laramie, WY • 8:00 pm ET • Utah -23.5, 48

Utah has been physical on both sides and controls the trenches. Wyoming doesn't have the firepower to hold up for four quarters. **TAKE: Utah -23.5**

Navy at Tulsa

Tulsa, OK • 8:00 pm ET • Navy -14, 54

Navy's option offense shortens games and limits possessions. Tulsa should benefit from that pace to stay inside the number. **TAKE: Tulsa +14**

Akron at UAB

Birmingham, AL • 8:30 pm ET • UAB -11.5, 52

Akron has struggled to move the ball and has been giving up big plays on defense. UAB's efficiency on offense and pressure defense should be too much at home. **TAKE: UAB -11.5**

Air Force at Utah State

Logan, UT • 9:45 pm ET • Air Force -3.5, 52

Air Force controls games on the ground, but Utah State has shown toughness at home. Expect a tighter matchup than the number suggests. **TAKE: Utah State +3.5**

Boston College at Stanford

Stanford, CA • 10:30 pm ET • Boston College -10, 45

Boston College has the stronger line play and can dictate tempo, while Stanford is still rebuilding consistency. The Eagles have the edge up front and should pull away. **TAKE: Boston College -10**

Minnesota at California

Berkeley, CA • 10:30 pm ET • Minnesota -2.5, 44

Minnesota leans on a power run game, but California has been more balanced and opportunistic. At home, the Bears can keep this within reach. **TAKE: California +2.5**

Texas State at Arizona State

Tempe, AZ • 10:30 pm ET • Arizona State -14.5, 60

Arizona State has more depth, but Texas State plays scrappy and can slow the game down. The pace points to fewer scores than projected. **TAKE: Under 60**

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THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
CFB	Oklahoma -21.5	Clemson - 3.5	Texas - 41.5	Ole Miss Ov 61	B College - 10



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