

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

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CFB Week 7, 2025

NCAA Landscape:

October brought out the undead across college football. In Los Angeles, UCLA climbed out of the coffin to stun seventh-ranked Penn State. The Florida offense suddenly jolted awake in The Swamp to hand Texas an unexpected loss. Mighty Alabama staved off a second upset bid from hard-nosed Vanderbilt. And at Nippert Stadium, Cincinnati looked rejuvenated in a feisty win over a ranked Iowa State team. In Week 6, the walking dead were officially upon us.

UCLA rises from the dead to stun Penn State

It felt like a scene from *The Walking Dead* in Los Angeles on Saturday, with Penn State wandering around like zombies while UCLA suddenly came to life. Just weeks removed from firing head coach DeShaun Foster, the Bruins played like a team possessed, shaking off weeks of lifeless offense to blow the doors off a drowsy Penn State in a seismic 42-37 upset.

The previously winless Bruins came out of the gate hot, rattling off 27 first-half points behind superb play from quarterback Nico Iamaleava. Iamaleava did it in the air and on the ground, combining for almost 300 yards and five scores.

The usually vaunted Penn State defense got gashed early and often by the UCLA run game, with the Bruins tallying 269 yards on the day. Penn State made a strong second-half push with 30 points, but ultimately it was too little too late for the seventh-ranked Nittany Lions.

A week removed from going toe to toe with Oregon, James Franklin's bunch came out flat and is suddenly staring down the barrel of a treacherous Big Ten and College Football Playoff fate.

Many questions remain about Penn State moving forward. Should a loss like this disqualify the Nittany Lions from the CFP discussion? Can we trust them again to pick them at? Is Franklin's job safe after coming up short again? Where does this program go from here?

Texas trips up in The Swamp

Since the start of the 2025 season, the Texas offense has been DOA. Outside of a few quarters against the Sam Houstons of the world, the Longhorns have looked devoid of life and unable to reach top gear.

Saturday afternoon, the struggling Longhorns squared off against a similarly inept Florida Gators offense, a battle of offensive ineptitude on an epic scale. But like any good gator, Florida was just waiting for the perfect moment to strike. Behind a strong outing from quarterback DJ Lagway, the Gators dragged ninth-ranked Texas into the deep end in a 29-21 upset win.

Last season, Billy Napier's bunch emerged after a rocky start and rounded out the year with a respectable record. Could that outcome be on the cards again? Good luck figuring out this Florida team week to week when making your picks at.

Texas suddenly looks more mortal than ever and has a big Red River Rivalry game on deck. There's plenty of season left, but at the time of writing, this team does not have the look of a College Football Playoff team.

Roll Tide exacts revenge on Vanderbilt

Last year's meeting between Alabama and Vanderbilt was the stunner of all stunners, the college football equivalent of the walls of Jericho coming down. This time around, however, Alabama kicked it into high gear in the second half, blanking the 'Dores down the stretch for a 30-14 win.

Alabama quarterback Ty Simpson continues to look like perhaps the best signal-caller in the SEC. He outplayed Short King Diego Pavia, finishing 23-of-34 for 340 yards and two touchdowns. Pavia talked the talk in the lead-up to the game, but couldn't push the Commodores to an upset win the second time in two years.

As strange as it might sound, after beating Vanderbilt, Alabama just might've cemented itself as the class of the SEC. So much for that whole 'Fire Kalen DeBoer' narrative we heard after losing to FSU.

Cincinnati has entered the Big 12 title race chat

Just when you think you've got the Big 12 figured out, Cincinnati comes along and throws a wrench in the title race picture. The unranked Bearcats threw a bevy of first-half haymakers, jumping out to a big lead and holding on for a 38-30 upset win over 14th-ranked Iowa State.

This Cincinnati team looks nothing like the team that lost a drab season-opener to Nebraska. The Bearcat offense looks frisky, the defense feels very bend-but-don't-break, and don't look now, but this team is 2-0 in conference play, and there's a growing case for them as a Big 12 contender.

Iowa State had the look of a team that had run out of gas after a jam-packed early schedule that featured a trip to Dublin. Iowa State is still a good team, but it's fair to question the ceiling now, especially after losing a pair of starting corners to injury for the rest of the season.

The Canes run the Sunshine State

Despite an admirable, late-game rally from 18th-ranked Florida State, Miami left little doubt who runs the Sunshine State after the Canes' 28-22 win in a game that wasn't as close as the scoreline indicates.

Miami dominated early, jumping out to a big 28-3 lead behind 240 yards and four touchdowns from quarterback Carson Beck. Florida State scored 19 fourth-quarter points as Mario Cristobal did his best to "Mario" the game away, but to no avail.

The ACC is a weird league, but it's crystal clear that Miami remains the team to beat moving forward. Florida State is suddenly on a two-game skid and needs to right the ship, and fast, if it hopes to be part of the College Football Playoff discussion later this season. The Seminoles better not go zombie this week as the Pittsburgh Panthers roll into town off a 48-7 drubbing of Boston College. Pittsburgh backup QB M. Heintschel went 30 for 41 and 323 yards. Could FSU lose three in a row? We'll see.

Clemson clobbers UNC in embarrassing fashion

Losing to Clemson one month ago would've been nothing to scoff at. Getting blown out by this version of Clemson? Big yikes. Yes, this was Dennis' Popular Private Gold Pick. [View record here.](#)

Bill Belichick's rookie season continues to go from bad to worse. On Saturday, Clemson put the Tar Heels in a blender in a blowout 38-10 win. Clemson quarterback Cade Klubnik had more touchdowns (4) than incompletions (2) in the pronounced victory. This is the type of loss that's a major indictment on the entire UNC operation, from Belichick to GM Michael Lombardi on down.

Notre Dame lives to fight another day

It took a while to get going, but Notre Dame pulled away in the second half to knock off Boise State 28-7. The game ball goes to the Notre Dame secondary, with that group forcing four Maddux Madsen INTs in the victory. Notre Dame's dazzling running back pairing of Jeremiyah Love and Jadarian Price combined for over 180 yards and a pair of scores, while quarterback CJ Carr looked every bit the cool customer we've seen since that opening-season loss to Miami.

The Fighting Irish currently do not have a ranked team left on their schedule. It'll be interesting to see if Notre Dame can win out and force its way back into the College Football Playoff discussion.

Hoos hold serve on the road against Louisville

A week removed from a stunning double OT victory over FSU, it felt fair to question what we should expect from Virginia this weekend. The Hoos staved off the big-game hangover to knock off a frisky Louisville team 30-27 in overtime.

Turnovers often tell the story of college football games. Louisville outgained Virginia by a significant margin, but two critical turnovers stalled out the offense. Despite the late-game Cardinals' rally, the Hoos held on to move to 5-1 overall and 3-0 in the ACC. Do we see an ACC title for Virginia?

Navy has a killer passing attack

In the first leg of the battle for the Commander-in-Chief Trophy, it was Navy's passing attack that made all the difference. Midshipmen quarterback Blake Horvath threw for over 300 yards and three touchdowns to power undefeated Navy to a 34-31 win over Air Force.

Special shout out to Navy wide receiver Eli Heidenreich, who finished with a school-record 243 receiving yards and three touchdowns. In a game so often dominated by the option offense and a "three yards and a cloud of dust" mantra, it was fun to see Navy air it out against, of all teams, Air Force.

Defending MAC champ goes down

In a day full of strange outcomes, our best bet last week in the Ohio-Ball State finish just might take the cake. The previously 2-2 Ball State Cardinals stunned defending MAC champs Ohio on a last-minute touchdown pass to pull off a shocking 20-14 win.

This outcome was not one that expected. I can't help but feel like they'll desperately wish they had this one back come late November. But we wish we had this one back today.

We thought Week 6 would be quiet. We were wrong. Dead wrong.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BETS

12:00 PM ET — Toledo -9 / 49.5 at Bowling Green

Bowling Green's home-field and defensive metrics command respect, but the gap in offensive consistency remains wide. Toledo's rushing attack averages 5.4 yards per carry and ranks top-20 nationally in explosive runs. BGSU's defense, though improved, has struggled to maintain gap integrity in the fourth quarter, allowing late surges in yardage and points. Turnover regression also looms — the Falcons have relied on takeaways to stay competitive.

Gridiron Gold's internal model grades this closer to -13, signaling market value on the road favorite. Quarterback Dequan Finn's mobility should extend drives, and Toledo's defense ranks top-three in the MAC in opponent red-zone efficiency. Expect Toledo's superior depth and explosive capability to deliver a decisive second-half pull-away. **TAKE: Toledo -9**

12:00 PM ET — Illinois vs Ohio State -16 / 50.5

Ohio State continues to dominate defensively, ranking top-five nationally in both scoring defense (11.8 ppg) and yards per play allowed (3.8). The Buckeyes' defensive front controls the line of scrimmage, and their secondary remains among the nation's most efficient on passing downs. Illinois has struggled to move the ball against top competition, averaging only 4.9 yards per play and converting a modest 31 percent on third downs. The mismatch in trench play is glaring — Ohio State's adjusted line yards are double Illinois's offensive output, which signals sustained field-position advantages and short fields for the Buckeye offense.

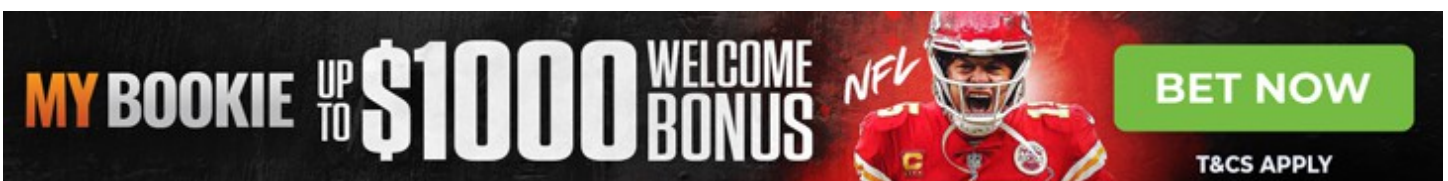
On offense, quarterbacks continue to post elite efficiency numbers (9.4 yards per attempt, 14-2 TD-INT ratio) while distributing the ball to a deep receiver corps. With a projected differential north of three touchdowns by Gridiron Gold's power ratings, the spread remains short. Expect a disciplined defensive effort and methodical offensive balance to yield another statement road win.

TAKE: Ohio State -16

1:00 PM ET — Northern Illinois -1 / 48.5 at Eastern Michigan

Northern Illinois' improvement since late September has been dramatic, with the Huskies ranking top-three in the MAC in both rushing success rate and time of possession. They control tempo behind an offensive line generating 3.2 line yards per carry and an efficient passing game. Eastern Michigan's offense, by contrast, remains among the least efficient in FBS (118th in success rate), sustaining drives on less than 30 percent of possessions. That forces their defense onto the field for nearly 33 minutes per game, wearing them down in the second half.

NIU's defense has quietly been elite on third downs, allowing conversions at only a 32 percent clip — the exact area EMU's offense has failed most. Power ratings across systems project a two-score spread here, and turnovers are likely to favor the steadier side. NIU controls possession, field position, and clock in a businesslike MAC road win. **TAKE: Northern Illinois -1**

A promotional banner for MyBookie. On the left, the text "MY BOOKIE" is in orange and white, followed by "UP TO \$1000 WELCOME BONUS" in large white letters. To the right is a photo of an NFL player in a red jersey with the number 10, wearing a helmet and having his mouth open. Further right is a green button with the text "BET NOW" in white. At the bottom right, in smaller white text, it says "T&CS APPLY".

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7:30 PM ET — Michigan +3 / 57.5 at USC

Michigan's physical dominance at the line of scrimmage continues to define their season. The Wolverines have out gained every opponent, boasting top-10 national rankings in both rushing efficiency and red-zone defense. USC's talent is undeniable on offense, but their protection issues (17 sacks allowed) and porous defense (6.7 yards per play allowed) make them vulnerable against disciplined, physical teams. Michigan's front seven can generate pressure without blitzing, freeing their secondary to contain USC's vertical passing game.

Gridiron Gold's power numbers favor Michigan outright by more than a touchdown. The Wolverines' efficiency advantage on both sides of the ball makes this an ideal situational spot, especially with turnover differential and third-down conversion rate both tilting their way. Expect a patient, methodical game script that wears USC down over four quarters and ends with a statement win.

TAKE: Michigan +3

8:00 PM ET — Troy +10 / 54.5 at Texas State

Troy's defense remains the Sun Belt standard, holding foes to 4.7 yards per play while ranking top-20 nationally in red-zone stops. The Trojans' balanced attack behind has found its rhythm, generating over 400 yards per game during their current streak. Texas State's spread offense thrives at home, but their defense has surrendered 6.1 yards per play across the last month and has been vulnerable to play-action shots. Turnover differential (-5 since Week 3) continues to undercut the Bobcats' edge. Power-rating analysis shows a spread closer to a field goal, offering more than a touchdown of cushion on the visitor. The Trojans' consistency on defense and advantage in special teams give them live upset potential. Expect Troy to shorten the game, force long drives, and hang inside the number in a back-and-forth contest. **TAKE: Troy +10**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL QUICK PICKS

7:30 PM ET — Missouri State +2.5 / 51.5 at Middle Tennessee (Wednesday)

Middle Tennessee's defense has been one of the most generous in FBS, allowing 7.0 yards per play over the last three weeks. Missouri State's balanced attack, led by a dual-threat QB should sustain enough drives to pressure the Blue Raiders' coverage unit. With both teams playing at moderate tempo, the visitor's offensive efficiency makes this a tight contest. **TAKE: Missouri St +2.5**

8:00 PM ET — Liberty -2.5 / 47.5 at UTEP (Wednesday)

Liberty's rushing efficiency has been elite, averaging 5.8 yards per carry behind a veteran line. UTEP's defense ranks bottom-25 nationally in yards per play allowed and gives up frequent chunk gains off tackle. Expect the Flames' ground game to grind this one away methodically.

TAKE: Liberty -2.5

7:00 PM ET — Louisiana Tech -6.5 / 45.5 at Kennesaw State (Thursday)

Louisiana Tech owns the advantage at the line of scrimmage, facing a transitioning Kennesaw State team still adjusting to FBS speed. The Bulldogs' defense is stout against the run, which neutralizes the Owls' primary strength. If La Tech forces early passing downs, this one can separate by halftime.

TAKE: Louisiana Tech -6.5

7:30 PM ET — East Carolina at Tulane -7 / 54.5 (Thursday)

Tulane's defense should control this matchup, as ECU ranks 122nd nationally in yards per play (4.4). The Green Wave's offense has improved its red-zone conversion rate to 75%, which offsets any early jitters on the road. With Tulane's depth advantage, second-half pull-away looks likely.

TAKE: Tulane -7

8:00 PM ET — Southern Miss at Georgia Southern -3 / 60.5 (Thursday)

Georgia Southern's passing game ranks top-20 in completion rate and faces a Southern Miss secondary surrendering 8.8 yards per attempt. Expect tempo and sustained drives from the home side. If the Eagles get rolling early, this total climbs fast. **TAKE: Over 60.5**

8:00 PM ET — Jacksonville State -8.5 / 55.5 at Sam Houston State at (Thursday)

Jacksonville State's defense has carried the team, ranking 15th nationally in yards per play allowed (4.4). Sam Houston's struggling offense (15 ppg) faces long odds against that front. Expect a conservative Gamecock offense, but field position and turnovers still point to separation.

TAKE: Jacksonville State -8.5

7:30 PM ET — South Florida at North Texas -1.5 / 67.5 (Friday)

Both teams bring tempo, but North Texas' offense has been sharper at home, averaging 7.1 yards per play. USF's defense has allowed over 500 yards per game since Week 3. In a shootout script, trust the offenses to finish drives in what should be high octane offense. **TAKE: Over 67.5**

9:00 PM ET — Fresno State -6.5 / 46.5 at Colorado State

Fresno's defense should dictate pace, allowing just 27% third-down conversions on the season. Colorado State's protection remains a major liability, giving up 18 sacks in five games. If Fresno avoids turnovers, its methodical offense will handle this margin cleanly. **TAKE: Fresno State -6.5**

9:00 PM ET — Rutgers at Washington -10.5 / 59.5 (Friday)

Washington's offense averages nearly 500 yards per game, but Rutgers' physical defense could slow tempo just enough to suppress scoring. Expect a measured performance from UW after back-to-back track meets. **TAKE: Under 59.5**

12:00 PM ET — UCF at Cincinnati -10.5 / 55.5 (Saturday)

Cincinnati's front seven leads the nation in tackles for loss, but UCF's pace can mitigate that edge by spreading the field. The Knights' QB play has been steadier on the road than at home, and their red-zone production travels. Market inflation on Cincy after last week's win opens value the other way.

TAKE: UCF +10.5

12:00 PM ET — Charlotte at Army -17.5 / 47.5

Army's triple-option is difficult to prepare for, but Charlotte's improved defensive front has quietly ranked top-50 in success rate against the run. The 49ers' ability to limit big plays gives them a path to stay within a few possessions. Lower total equals higher underdog value in a clock-draining game script. **TAKE: Charlotte +17.5**

12:00 PM ET — Louisiana at James Madison -17.5 / 46.5

Louisiana's balanced offense and solid special teams give them the ingredients to hang around. James Madison's defense is excellent, but their offense hasn't produced many chunk plays to cover big numbers. The Ragin' Cajuns' red-zone scoring (87%) helps sustain drives in a defensive struggle.

TAKE: Louisiana +17.5

12:00 PM ET — Pittsburgh at Florida State -9.5 / 57.5

Florida State's defense has been inconsistent against balanced attacks, while Pitt's front seven can create havoc if the Seminoles fall behind the chains. Both teams prefer to run first, which should drain clock and limit possessions. The number still feels heavy given each side's defensive potential.

TAKE: Pittsburgh +9.5

12:00 PM ET — UCLA at Michigan State -7.5 / 55.5

Michigan State's pass rush could make the difference against a UCLA line that has yielded pressure on 35% of dropbacks. The Spartans' defense holds opponents to 3.4 yards per carry, creating better leverage downs. Expect a workmanlike cover behind defense and field position.

TAKE: Michigan State -7.5

12:00 PM ET — Miami (OH) -10 / 45.5 at Akron

Miami's defense leads the MAC in scoring prevention and red-zone efficiency, allowing just 16 points per game. Akron's offense lacks explosive ability, relying heavily on third-down conversions they rarely get. The RedHawks' balanced game plan should be enough to grind out a cover.

TAKE: Miami (OH) -10

12:00 PM ET — Alabama -3.5 / 52.5 at Missouri

Alabama's defensive front and running efficiency both project favorably against Missouri's tempo. The Tigers are 1-6 ATS when failing to rush for 150 yards, and this Crimson Tide defense hasn't allowed that mark since Week 2. Expect a physical, methodical game in which Alabama separates after halftime. **TAKE: Alabama -3.5**

12:00 PM ET — Stanford at SMU -17.5 / 55.5

SMU's offensive line gives their quarterbacks time to find open receivers against a Stanford secondary allowing 66% completions. The Mustangs' defense is quietly elite in the AAC, holding opponents under 5.0 yards per play. Add in home-field speed and the gap widens. **TAKE: SMU -17.5**

12:00 PM ET — Houston -14 / 47.5 at Oklahoma State

Houston's recent defensive surge has been overlooked — 11 sacks and eight turnovers forced in the last three games. Oklahoma State's offense has lacked rhythm and explosive capability. Houston's edge in both lines should control the script. **TAKE: Houston -14**

12:45 PM ET — Washington State at Ole Miss -32.5 / 58.5

Ole Miss should score at will, but Washington State's passing attack can land enough counter punches to stay inside a massive number. The Cougars average 35 pass attempts per game and rank top-25 in explosive plays. Backdoor value makes this too tall.

TAKE: Washington State +32.5

2:30 PM ET — UMass at Kent State -3 / 49.5

Kent State's defense ranks near the top of the MAC in tackles for loss and has quietly forced turnovers in five straight games. UMass struggles to sustain drives, converting just 31 percent on third down, which plays into Kent State's field-position edge. Power ratings grade this around -7, leaving value on the home side. **TAKE: Kent State -3**

3:30 PM ET — Old Dominion at Marshall -14 / 55.5

Marshall's offense has been inconsistent, but its defense excels in red-zone containment (opponents score TDs only 49% of trips). Old Dominion's passing game lacks vertical punch, which limits comeback equity. In a matchup of defenses, a 55.5 total feels inflated.

TAKE: Under 55.5

3:30 PM ET — Appalachian State -3 / 56.5 at Georgia State

App State's balanced attack travels, and efficiency against pressure gives them a clear edge. Georgia State's defense has allowed 6.2 yards per play since Week 3 and is trending downward. Ratings lean Mountaineers narrowly. **TAKE: Appalachian State -3**

3:30 PM ET — Northwestern at Penn State -21.5 / 48.5

Penn State dominates time of possession and ranks top-10 nationally in opponent success rate. Northwestern's limited offense should struggle to reach double digits. Expect gradual separation as PSU's depth takes over late. **TAKE: Penn State -21.5**

3:30 PM ET — Virginia Tech at Georgia Tech -14.5 / 55.5

Georgia Tech's offense is explosive but turnover-prone; Virginia Tech's disciplined secondary can capitalize on mistakes. Hokies have covered five of their last seven as double-digit dogs. The market overstates the gap. **TAKE: Virginia Tech +14.5**

3:30 PM ET — Ball State at Western Michigan -9.5 / 43.5

Western Michigan's defense has quietly stiffened, holding three straight opponents under 21 points. Ball State averages only 4.6 yards per play and lacks big-play potential. Low total favors the more efficient offense to edge clear. **TAKE: Western Michigan -9.5**

3:30 PM ET — Iowa State -4 / 52.5 at Colorado

Iowa State's defense travels; they're top-20 nationally in EPA per play allowed. Colorado's offensive line has struggled to protect, giving up sacks on 10 percent of dropbacks. ISU's structure limits explosives, making this matchup tilt to the visitor. **TAKE: Iowa State -4**

3:30 PM ET — Nebraska -6 / 47.5 at Maryland

Nebraska's run-heavy approach can grind clock, but Maryland's passing efficiency (69% completions) offers a counter punch. Turnover variance keeps this tight; taking points in a projected one-score outcome is logical. **TAKE: Maryland +6**

3:30 PM ET — TCU -1.5 / 57.5 at Kansas State

TCU's offensive balance should stress a Kansas State defense allowing 6.0 yards per snap to Power-Five foes. Explosives decide it, and the Horned Frogs own more down-field threats. Power numbers call for a short road win. **TAKE: TCU -1.5**

3:30 PM ET — North Carolina at Notre Dame -22.5 / 62.5

Notre Dame's defense limits chunk gains, while North Carolina's pace inflates total projections. If the Irish dictate tempo with their run game, points come slower than expected. Both systems project a total several points lower. **TAKE: Under 62.5**

3:30 PM ET — Indiana at Oregon -7.5 / 55.5

Oregon's offense is explosive, but Indiana's improved line play and tempo control can shorten the game. The Hoosiers have covered four of their last five as road dogs and bring the type of defensive structure that limits chunk gains. Expect Ducks to win but not clear a full touchdown plus the hook. **TAKE: Indiana +7.5**

3:30 PM ET — Wake Forest -2.5 / 52.5 at Oregon State

Wake Forest's offense has found rhythm, ranking top-25 in success rate on standard downs. Oregon State has struggled defending tempo-based passing teams. If the Demon Deacons protect their QB, they'll sustain long scoring drives. **TAKE: Wake Forest -2.5**

3:30 PM ET — Oklahoma at Texas -3 / 42.5

Both defenses rank among the nation's top 15 in success rate, suggesting points will be at a premium. Texas's front four can pressure without blitzing, and Oklahoma's red-zone defense forces field goals. This shapes up as a grind between rivals. Wise guys banged this. **TAKE: Under 42.5**

3:30 PM ET — Air Force at UNLV -7 / 68.5

Air Force's triple-option limits possessions and drains clock, making large spreads tough to justify. UNLV's explosive offense is dangerous, but consistency lags in sustained drives. With pace suppressed, the number looks inflated. **TAKE: Air Force +7**

4:00 PM ET — Navy at Temple +7.5 / 52.5

Temple's defensive front has improved gap discipline, key to slowing the option. If the Owls can force two red-zone field goals, they stay live into the fourth quarter. Turnovers remain a neutralizer in a low-possession game. **TAKE: Temple +7.5**

4:15 PM ET — Arkansas at Tennessee -13.5 / 69.5

Tennessee's up-tempo offense can create separation, but Arkansas's explosive passing game and balanced attack give them backdoor potential. High total enhances volatility, favoring the dog. **TAKE: Arkansas +13.5**

6:00 PM ET — UAB at FAU -4.5 / 69.5

FAU's offense has surged behind improved QB play, posting 7.2 yards per play over the last three. UAB's defense has allowed over 30 points per game since Week 2. With the Owls trending upward, their efficiency edge should carry. **TAKE: FAU -4.5**

7:00 PM ET — Iowa at Wisconsin +3.5 / 37.5

Points figure to be scarce — both teams rank bottom-10 in pace and top-20 in scoring defense. With such a low total, any points are magnified. In a field-position grinder, home dog value rises. **TAKE: Wisconsin +3.5**

7:00 PM ET — ULM at Coastal Carolina +2.5 / 43.5

Coastal Carolina has struggled to finish drives, scoring touchdowns on just 45% of red-zone trips. ULM's defensive metrics have improved sharply the last two weeks, especially versus the run. Efficiency favors the small favorite. **TAKE: ULM -2.5**

7:00 PM ET — Florida at Texas A&M -7.5 / 46.5

Texas A&M's defensive front ranks top-10 in sack rate and run stuff percentage, a difficult matchup for Florida's offensive line. If the Aggies can protect a lead, their depth wears down opponents late. Market still underrates both teams defensive prowess. **TAKE: Under 46.5**

7:00 PM ET — San José State -2.5 / 49.5 at Wyoming

San José State's offense has hit stride, averaging 6.4 yards per play over the last month, while Wyoming's attack ranks near the bottom nationally in success rate. The Spartans' improved run defense should neutralize the Cowboys' ground-heavy plan. With a modest number and superior efficiency, the road favorite has the stronger path. **TAKE: San José State -2.5**

7:30 PM ET — Clemson -14 / 54.5 at Boston College

Clemson's defense is elite on third downs (opponents convert 28%) and should dictate field position. Boston College can hang for stretches, but its offense struggles when forced off schedule. Expect Clemson to impose physical control by the third quarter. **TAKE: Clemson -14**

7:30 PM ET — Kansas at Texas Tech -14 / 60.5

Texas Tech's vertical passing game and pressure defense combine for high variance, but Kansas' secondary is overmatched against true deep threats. If the Red Raiders reach tempo, this spreads quickly. Power ratings project a two-score margin. **TAKE: Texas Tech -14**

7:30 PM ET — Rice at UTSA -12.5 / 49.5

UTSA's offensive balance and third-down success rate (52%) stand out in Conference USA. Rice's defense has regressed sharply on the road, yielding 6.3 yards per play. With home momentum and late-game depth, the Roadrunners should separate. **TAKE: UTSA -12.5**

7:30 PM ET — Purdue at Minnesota -9.5 / 51.5

Minnesota's rushing attack ranks top-15 in success rate and faces a Purdue front giving up 5.2 yards per carry. If the Gophers control tempo, they limit Purdue's possessions. Expect a grind that favors the home side's ground dominance. **TAKE: Minnesota -9.5**

7:30 PM ET — Georgia -3.5 / 46.5 at Auburn

Georgia's talent edge is clear, but Auburn's defense and pace suppression create a low-margin contest. With both teams relying on methodical drives, a field goal could decide it. The hook carries weight but the hook on the total looks better. **TAKE: Under 46..5**

7:45 PM ET — South Carolina at LSU -9.5 / 43.5

LSU's defense has rounded into form, allowing just 285 yards per game over its last three. South Carolina's offense is capable, yet turnover issues linger. Night atmosphere in Baton Rouge plus red-zone efficiency favor the Tigers. **TAKE: LSU -9.5**

8:00 PM ET — BYU -2.5 / 47.5 at Arizona

Arizona's passing game provides consistent chunk plays, and BYU's pass rush has underperformed on the road. The Wildcats' efficiency at home (7.0 yards per play) gives them an edge in a tight matchup. **TAKE: Arizona +2.5**

9:45 PM ET — New Mexico at Boise State -16.5 / 60.5

Boise State's rushing attack and defensive front should dominate the line of scrimmage. New Mexico lacks the offensive punch to exploit Boise's secondary. Expect steady separation as the Broncos control possession. **TAKE: Boise State -16.5**

10:15 PM ET — Arizona State at Utah -5.5 / 48.5

Rice-Eccles Stadium remains one of the toughest venues in college football. Utah's defense allows only 4.6 yards per play and excels in red-zone containment. Arizona State's offense struggles on the road; Utah's physicality wins out. **TAKE: Utah -5.5**

10:30 PM ET — San Diego State -7 / 42.5 at Nevada

San Diego State's power run game and defensive consistency make it hard for Nevada's limited offense to keep up. The Wolf Pack have failed to top 17 points in four straight, and SDSU's front seven should dominate the trenches. In a low-total matchup, the superior rushing team controls pace and possession. **TAKE: San Diego State -7**

11:59 PM ET — Utah State at Hawaii -1.5 / 58

Hawaii's defense ranks among the worst nationally in opponent yards per play, and Utah State's tempo can exploit that. The Aggies' balanced offense and takeaway margin point to road value even on the islands. Expect a shootout, but Utah State's efficiency travels. **TAKE: Utah State +1.5**

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THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
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