

POWERS' PICKS \$15

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College Best Bets on These Pages 61% This Year!!

Week 16 CFB Best Bets Pg 3, Week 15 NFL Best Bets Pg 6

Week 15 News and Notes!

For those of you that are new, in this section we'll recap what happened last week specifically, the misleading finals, the key injuries, the bad beats and the line moves. We'll include most of these recaps here, therefore you don't have to waste time reading about them in my game-by-game write-ups for the upcoming week. Without further adieu, here's a run down of what happened last week in the world of CFB.

Week 15 Trends

Favorites-Dogs	
Straight Up	26-11
ATS	18-19
Home-Away	
Straight Up	17-18
ATS	17-18
Totals (O/U)	
Over-Under	18-19
Season To-Date Favorites-Dogs	
Straight Up	396-127
ATS	257-257-9
Home-Away	
Straight Up	309-209
ATS	250-259-9
Totals (O/U)	
Over-Under	260-255-8

Largest Favorites to Cover:

Buffalo (-33) vs Akron, 56-7
Alabama (-28) at Arkansas, 52-3
TCU (-21.5) vs Louisiana Tech, 52-10

Biggest Money line Upsets:

LSU +850 won 37-34 at Florida (+23)
New Mexico +425 won 49-39 vs Fresno State (+16)
Southern Miss +290 won 45-31 vs Florida Atlantic (+9)
Minnesota +280 won 24-17 at Nebraska (+9)



LSU pulled off one of the biggest shockers of the season last Saturday night upsetting No. 6 Florida 37-34 as 23-point underdogs. The Tigers were aided by one of the dumbest penalties in CFB history as a Florida player tossed a shoe (pictured above) after stopping LSU on 3rd down. The penalty kept a drive alive that ended with LSU getting a 57-yard FG with :23 left for the win.

ATS Notables

Indiana is 7-0 ATS this year covering by an average of 11 ppg.
Coastal Carolina is 8-2-1 ATS this year covering by an average of 13 ppg.
Kansas was 1-7-1 ATS this year failing to cover by an average of 9 ppg.
Bowling Green was 1-4 ATS this year failing to cover by an average of 13 ppg.
Kent St games are 3-1 to the OVER this year by an average of 25 ppg.
South Alabama games were 9-2 to the UNDER this year by an average of 7 ppg.
Liberty has covered 7 straight games by an average of 11 ppg.
Alabama has covered 7 straight games by an average of 14 ppg.

Misleading Finals

Ball State (+2) beat Western Michigan 30-27. However, WMU had 24-17 first down and 491-352 yard edges, but were -2 in TO's. WMU fumbled at the Ball St 4-yard line, were stopped on downs at the Ball St 6 and missed a 29-yard FG. Ball St trailed 27-13 entering the 4Q and outscored WMU 17-0 getting a 22-yard FG with :29 left.

LSU (+23) shocked Florida 37-34. However, Florida had a 609-418 yard edge but were -3 in TO's. The Gators were stopped on downs on 4th&Goal at the LSU 1-yard line. LSU got a 68-yard interception return TD. UF also threw an interception at the LSU 6-yard line which bounced off two players and was caught by a player laying down just in bounds. UF also fumbled at their own 19-yard line to set up LSU for a FG. All of that was just in the first half!

BYU (-16.5) beat San Diego State 28-14. However, San Diego St had 23-17 first down and 399-384 yard edges including 169-81 on the ground. San Diego St turned the ball over deep in BYU territory twice and were also stopped on downs on the BYU28 and BYU 1-yard lines.

Bad Beats

UCLA (+3.5) backers were covering the entire game. The Bruins led 28-10 early in the second half but USC rallied. Still, UCLA got a 43-yard FG with :52 left to take a 38-36 lead. USC got a 56-yard kickoff return and then a 35-yard pass to the UCLA 8-yard line. Instead of settling for a FG, QB Kedon Slovis checked out of a running play and threw a TD pass with :16 left for the win and cover. Again, those final :16 were the only seconds UCLA wasn't covering.

We usually talk only CFB bad beats on this front page but we had one of the worst NFL beats of the season on Monday Night Football. **Baltimore closed as a 3-point road favorite at Cleveland.** After a back-and-forth game, it looked like the game was going to push after Ravens' kicker Justin Tucker hit a 55-yard FG with :02 left to give Baltimore a 45-42 lead. However, a multi-lateral play by the Browns as time expired resulted in a safety. That gave Ravens backers a win and no doubt swung millions of dollars in bets at sports books around the nation.

Injuries/COVID Cases

We had 13 games postponed or cancelled last week including Charlotte at Marshall, Michigan at Ohio State, Oklahoma at West Virginia, Ohio at Kent State, Miami at Bowling Green, Incarnate Word at Arkansas State, Purdue at Indiana, Cincinnati at Tulsa, Washington at Oregon, California at Washington State, Texas at Kansas, Ole Miss at Texas A&M and Utah State at Colorado State.

This week's **ULM/Troy** game was cancelled due to positive cases at ULM.
This week's **Purdue/Indiana** game was cancelled due to positive cases at both schools.
This week's **Pac-12 Championship** game saw Oregon replace Washington as the Pac-12 North rep due to COVID issues at Washington. Therefore, the Ducks game vs Colorado was nixed and Oregon will be at USC.
This week's **Georgia Tech/Miami** game was cancelled due to positive cases at GT.
This week's **Michigan/Iowa** game was cancelled due to positive cases at Michigan.
This week's **Arizona/Cal** game was cancelled due to positive cases at both schools.
This week's **Vanderbilt/Georgia** game was cancelled due to positive cases at Vandy.

Ball St RB Caleb Huntley declared for the NFL draft and won't play in this week's MAC Championship game.
Baylor starting QB Charlie Brewer left the team and will grad transfer.
Florida TE Kyle Pitts is expected to play this week after sitting out the LSU game.
Georgia Southern was already without starting QB Shai Werts and backup Justin Tomlin got hurt (ankle) in the App St game.
Iowa WR Ihmir Smith-Marsette is doubtful this week after injuring his ankle last week.
Louisiana Tech QB Luke Anthony will not play in the bowl after ankle surgery.
Maryland QB Taulia Tagovailoa missed last week's game (COVID) and is questionable for this week's game vs Michigan State.
North Texas WR Jaelon Darden declared for the draft and will miss the bowl game.
Oklahoma St RB Chuba Hubbard opted out for the rest of the season for the NFL.
Rutgers QB Noah Vedral is questionable for this week's game vs Nebraska.

Recapping Week 15 Best Bets

The college best bets went 3-1 on these pages. Rutgers was a nice outright upset winner. Troy nearly pulled the shocker vs Coastal and Tennessee crushed Vandy. We were stunned Fresno blew a 10-point second half lead to a New Mexico team with a 5th-string QB. The NFL went 2-1. We easily cashed the OVER in the Colts/Raiders game. The Bills won comfortably over the Steelers. However, our top play on the 49ers went down thanks to two defensive TD's by Washington.

2020 Nationwide Football Newsletter Contest (Regular Season Only)

We are happy to provide you with the records, standings and plays used from the Power Sweep (3★, 4★ & Underdog), Gold Sheet (Key Releases), Power Plays (4.5★ for College 4★ for NFL), Sports Reporter (Best & Super Bets), Winning Points (Best Bets & Preferred), Playbook (3-5★'s), Pointwise (Ratings 1-4), Powers' Picks (1-4★'s) and the Sunday Night Owl Report (1-4★'s).

College						NFL						College/NFL Combined					
Newsletter	W	L	T	%	Net	Newsletter	W	L	T	%	Net	Newsletter	W	L	T	%	Net
Powers' Picks	31	20	1	60.78%	11	Playbook	22	20	0	52.38%	2	Playbook	28	26	0	51.85%	2
Power Plays	14	11	0	56.00%	3	Gold Sheet	27	28	1	49.09%	-1	Powers' Picks	48	46	1	51.06%	2
Playbook	6	6	0	50.00%	0	Pointwise	19	23	0	45.24%	-4	Pointwise	49	55	1	47.12%	-6
Winning Points	31	32	2	49.21%	-1	Sports Reporter	13	16	0	44.83%	-3	Power Plays	18	21	0	46.15%	-3
Pointwise	30	32	1	48.39%	-2	Powers' Picks	17	26	0	39.53%	-9	Power Sweep	34	42	1	44.74%	-8
Power Sweep	23	25	1	47.92%	-2	Power Sweep	11	17	0	39.29%	-6	Winning Points	52	65	3	44.44%	-13
Gold Sheet	15	35	1	30.00%	-20	Winning Points	21	33	1	38.89%	-12	Gold Sheet	42	63	2	40.00%	-21
Sports Reporter	12	30	1	28.57%	-18	Power Plays	4	10	0	28.57%	-6	Sports Reporter	25	46	1	35.21%	-21
Combined	162	191	7	45.89%	-29	Combined	134	173	2	43.65%	-39	Combined	296	364	9	44.85%	-68

CFB and NFL Schedules with Vegas and Brad Powers Lines Week 16 December 17th-23rd

CFB/NFL Thursday, Dec 17th		Line	BP	All Times Eastern	NFL Wk 15 Saturday, Dec 19th		Line	BP	All Times Eastern
301 L.A. CHARGERS	8:20 p.m. FOX/NFL Net	53	53		343 CAROLINA	8:15 p.m. NFL Network	51.5	51	
302 LAS VEGAS		-3	-3		344 GREEN BAY		-8.5	-9	
193 UL-MONROE	7:00 p.m.				345 BUFFALO	4:30 p.m. NFL Network	-6.5	-3	
194 TROY		Cancelled			346 DENVER		50	45	
Friday, December 18th		Line	BP	All Times Eastern	NFL Sunday, Dec 20th		Line	BP	All Times Eastern
195 UAB	7:00 p.m. CUSA Champ CBSN	42	44		341 HOUSTON	1:00 p.m. CBS	51	52	
196 MARSHALL		-5	-6		342 INDIANAPOLIS		-7	-6	
197 BALL ST	7:30 p.m. ESPN	67.5	65		347 DETROIT	1:00 p.m. CBS	51.5	52	
198 BUFFALO		-13.5	-11		348 TENNESSEE		-11	-10	
207 NEBRASKA	7:30 p.m. Big Ten	-6.5	-5		349 N.Y. JETS	4:05 p.m. FOX	44	43	
208 RUTGERS		54	57		350 L.A. RAMS		-17	-17	
209 PURDUE	7:30 p.m.				351 TAMPA BAY	1:00 p.m. FOX	-6	-4	
210 INDIANA		Cancelled			352 ATLANTA		50.5	50	
199 WASHINGTON	8:00 p.m.				353 NEW ENGLAND	1:00 p.m. CBS	41.5	-1	
200 USC		Cancelled			354 MIAMI		-2.5	39	
251 OREGON	8:00 p.m. FOX	64	61		355 SEATTLE	1:00 p.m. FOX	-5.5	-6	
252 USC		-3	-1		356 WASHINGTON		44.5	46	
Saturday, December 19th		Line	BP	All Times Eastern	357 CHICAGO <th>Line</th> <th>BP</th> <th>All Times Eastern</th>		Line	BP	All Times Eastern
201 GEORGIA TECH	12:00 p.m.				358 MINNESOTA	1:00 p.m. FOX	-3	-6	
202 MIAMI FL		Cancelled			359 JACKSONVILLE	1:00 p.m. CBS	47.5	47	
203 FLORIDA ST	12:00 p.m. ACC Network	66	67		360 BALTIMORE		-13	-11	
204 WAKE FOREST		-6.5	-7		361 CLEVELAND	8:20 p.m. NBC	-4.5	-4	
205 AIR FORCE	3:00 p.m. CBSN	-2.5	-3		362 N.Y. GIANTS		44.5	44	
206 ARMY		37	37		363 PHILADELPHIA	4:05 p.m. FOX	49	46	
211 MINNESOTA	4:00 p.m. Big Ten	47	48		364 ARIZONA		-6.5	-4	
212 WISCONSIN		-12	-14		365 KANSAS CITY	4:25 p.m. CBS	-3	-3	
213 ILLINOIS	5:30 p.m. FS1	52	53		366 NEW ORLEANS		51.5	51	
214 PENN ST		-15	-17		367 SAN FRANCISCO	1:00 p.m. CBS	-3	-4	
215 MICHIGAN	7:00 p.m.				368 DALLAS		45	46	
216 IOWA		Cancelled			Monday, December 21st		Line	BP	All Times Eastern
217 MICHIGAN ST	7:30 p.m. Big Ten	50.5	53		369 PITTSBURGH	8:15 p.m. ESPN	-13	-13	
218 MARYLAND		-2.5	-1		370 CINCINNATI		40.5	39	
219 WASHINGTON ST	1:30 p.m. FS1	56.5	59						
220 UTAH		-10.5	-13						
221 STANFORD	7:00 p.m. ESPN2	59	58						
222 UCLA		-7	-4						
223 OREGON	9:00 p.m.								
224 COLORADO		Cancelled							
225 ARIZONA ST	10:30 p.m. ESPN	-7	-6						
226 OREGON ST		53.5	56						
227 ARIZONA	12:00 p.m.								
228 CALIFORNIA		Cancelled							
229 NORTHWESTERN	12:00 p.m. Big Ten Champ FOX	57	55						
230 OHIO ST		-20.5	-19						
231 OKLAHOMA	12:00 p.m. Big 12 Champ ABC	-5.5	-7						
232 IOWA ST		58	59						
233 UL-LAFAYETTE	3:30 p.m. Sun Belt Champ ESPN	55	-1						
234 COASTAL CAROLINA		-3.5	57						
235 CLEMSON	4:00 p.m. ACC Champ ABC	-10.5	-13						
236 NOTRE DAME		60	60						
237 TULSA	8:00 p.m. AAC Champ ABC	45.5	46						
238 CINCINNATI		-14.5	-12						
239 ALABAMA	9:00 p.m. SEC Champ CBS	-17	-18						
240 FLORIDA		74.5	74						
241 BOISE ST	4:15 p.m. MWC Champ FOX	-6.5	-7						
242 SAN JOSE ST		56	55						
243 TEXAS A&M	12:00 p.m. ESPN	-14	-13						
244 TENNESSEE		51	53						
245 VANDERBILT	12:00 p.m.								
246 GEORGIA		Cancelled							
247 OLE MISS	3:30 p.m. SEC Network	-2.5	75						
248 LSU		77.5	-1						
249 MISSOURI	3:30 p.m. SEC Alt	-1	-1						
250 MISSISSIPPI ST		49.5	53						

2020-21 Current Bowl Schedule-No lines yet

Saturday, December 19th	Wednesday, December 30th
Frisco Bowl - Toyota Stadium - Frisco, TX. UTSA vs SMU-Cancelled.	Mayo Bowl - Bank of America Stadium - Charlotte, NC. TBA.
Monday, December 21st	Music City Bowl - Nissan Stadium - Nashville, TN. TBA.
Myrtle Beach Bowl - Brooks Stadium - Conway, SC. North Texas vs App State	Cotton Bowl - AT&T Stadium - Arlington, TX. TBA.
Tuesday, December 22nd	Thursday, December 31st
Potato Bowl - Albertsons Stadium - Boise, ID. Tulane vs Nevada	Armed Forces Bowl - Amon G Carter Stadium - Fort Worth, TX. TBA.
Boca Raton Bowl - FAU Stadium - Boca Raton, FL. UCF vs BYU	Liberty Bowl - Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium - Memphis, TN. TBA.
Wednesday, December 23rd	Arizona Bowl - Arizona Stadium - Tucson, AZ. TBA.
New Orleans Bowl - Mercedes-Benz Superdome - New Orleans, LA.	Texas Bowl - NRG Stadium - Houston, TX. TBA.
Georgia Southern vs Louisiana Tech	Friday, January 1st
Montgomery Bowl - Crampton Bowl - Montgomery, AL. FAU vs Memphis	Birmingham Bowl - Legion Field - Birmingham, AL. TBA.
Thursday, December 24th	Peach Bowl - Mercedes-Benz Stadium - Atlanta, GA. TBA.
New Mexico Bowl - Toyota Stadium - Frisco, TX. Hawaii vs Houston	Citrus Bowl - Camping World Stadium - Orlando, FL. TBA.
Friday, December 25th	Rose Bowl - Rose Bowl - Pasadena, CA. TBA.
Camellia Bowl - Crampton Bowl - Montgomery, AL. TBA.	Sugar Bowl - Mercedes-Benz Superdome - New Orleans, LA. TBA.
Saturday, December 26th	Saturday, January 2nd
Gasparilla Bowl - Raymond James Stadium - Tampa, FL. TBA.	Gator Bowl - TIAA Bank Field - Jacksonville, FL. TBA.
First Responder Bowl - Gerald J Ford Stadium - Dallas, TX. TBA.	Outback Bowl - Raymond James Stadium - Tampa, FL. TBA.
Lending Tree Bowl - Ladd-Pebbles Stadium - Mobile, AL. WKU vs Georgia St	Fiesta Bowl - State Farm Stadium - Glendale, AZ. TBA.
Independence Bowl - Independence Stadium - Shreveport, LA. TBA.	Orange Bowl - Hard Rock Stadium - Miami Garden, FL. TBA.
Guaranteed Rate Bowl - Chase Field - Phoenix, AZ. TBA.	Monday, January 11th
Monday, December 28th	National Championship - Hard Rock Stadium - Miami Gardens, FL. TBA.
Military Bowl - Navy-Marine Corps Stadium - Annapolis, MD. TBA.	
Tuesday, December 29th	
Cheez-It Bowl - Camping World Stadium - Orlando, FL. TBA.	
Alamo Bowl - Almodome - San Antonio, TX. TBA.	

4★ = BEST 3★ = BETTER 2★ = GOOD 1★ = FAIR	THE POWERS' PACK
2★ UL-Lafayette (+3.5) over COASTAL CAROLINA	
1★ Tulsa (+14.5) over CINCINNATI	
1★ Stanford (+7) over UCLA	

Games in Rotation Order

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Thursday, December 17th

UL-Monroe at Troy was cancelled due to COVID issues at ULM.

Friday, December 18th

CUSA Champ Game - John C. Edwards Stadium - Huntington, WV
MARSHALL 25 Uab 19. The last time we saw Marshall, they were shockingly upset 20-0 as 3-TD favorites to Rice. It was a very misleading game (-4 in TO's) and you have to think the Thundering Herd will want to atone for their only loss of the season. On the other side, last week was the Blazers' first game in 42 days, and they only traveled with 42 scholarship players. They still beat that same Rice team 21-16 (+100 yards). They're going to need a few of those players to return here (especially RB Spencer Brown) if they're going to have any success vs a Marshall rush defense that allows just 73 ypg. We lean with Marshall here until UAB's COVID situation clears.

MAC Championship Game - Ford Field - Detroit, MI

† **Buffalo 38 Ball St 27.** A rematch of the 2008 MAC Championship which was Buffalo's only title and Ball State's last appearance. Obviously, Buffalo has been the class of the MAC in this shortened season as they have outscored their opponents by 31 ppg and averaged 345 rushing ypg behind RB Jaret Patterson and 1,025 yards and 18 TD's in just 5 games. They lead the nation in scoring averaging 52 ppg! They're taking on a Ball St team that has won 5 straight but were very fortunate to beat Western Michigan last week as they were out-gained by 139 yards and outscored the Broncos 17-0 in the fourth quarter. They are led by QB Drew Plitt (66%, 13-5 ratio) but leading rusher Caleb Huntley did opt out (note he's been out the last 3 games anyways). Tough stepping in front of this Buffalo team but this line seems a bit pricey and Ball St has covered 6 straight games as an underdog.

Nebraska 31 RUTGERS 26. Last week we won on these pages with Rutgers in their outright upset win over Maryland in OT. It certainly helped that Maryland's starting QB was a late scratch but Rutgers had to overcome an injury to their starting QB in the game and it was an emotional win for the players and coaches. "When we started this week, this was a really fatigued team. Not just physically but emotionally," coach Greg Schiano said. "We had three of our players lose loved ones this week, two to COVID. It's been a tough week for all these kids. But they did exactly what we asked them to do: They kept fighting." On the other side, Nebraska suffered another upset loss this time to a short-handed Minnesota team. Sadly, it looks like a 4th straight losing season for this once-dominant program. Our power ratings are close to where the line is and keep an eye on the status of Rutgers QB Noah Vedral who was on crutches last week after being KO'd. His backup Artur Sitkowski has plenty of experience. We lean Rutgers who has been the more consistent team.

Purdue at Indiana has been cancelled due to COVID issues at both schools.

Pac-12 Championship Game - LA Coliseum - Los Angeles, CA

USC 31 Oregon 30. Oregon replaces Washington who had COVID issues. The Trojans are a perfect 5-0 on the season but we haven't been overly impressed. They've had to make three 4Q comebacks and last week their backers got a huge break as they went for the TD instead of the FG in the final seconds as USC beat UCLA 43-38 (Trojans trailed 28-10 early 2H). It was the only time all game the Trojans were covering. QB Kedon Slovis is completing 70% of his passes and has three outstanding WR's in Drake London, Amon-Ra St. Brown and Tyler Vaughns. Meanwhile, Oregon saw last week's game vs Washington cancelled and the Ducks kind of backed into this one with the Huskies not being able to play this week. Oregon has lost two straight games after a 3-0 start. Turnovers have been a major issue as they have been -2 or more in 4 of their 5 games. We do think they have the advantage at the line of scrimmage as USC has failed to top 100 rush yards in each of their last 3 games. Down to the wire, like most USC games this year.

Saturday, December 19th

WAKE FOREST 37 Florida St 30. Both teams played last week after extended time off. The Demon Deacons were rusty in arguably their worst performance of the season, a 45-21 loss at Louisville. Meanwhile, FSU showed no signs of rust in a blowout win over Duke. Florida State listed 50 scholarship players as having participated in the game, and the Seminoles started seven true or redshirt freshmen. All the money has come in on Florida State in this match-up so far. We bet Florida St +11 on Sunday but we'd actually lean Wake Forest at the current number. Wake has covered all 4 of their home games this season while the Noles are -141 ypg on the road.

Air Force 20 ARMY 17. The Commander-In-Chief Trophy is on the line here. Air Force has absolutely dominated this series going 26-5 straight up (+13 ppg) and 22-9 ATS (+3.4 ppg) since 1989. The UNDER has also cashed in 6 straight meetings by an average of 19 ppg. Speaking of that, the UNDER cashed for the 15th consecutive time in the Army/Navy game last week. If you started in 2006 with a \$110 bet (to win \$100) on the Army/Navy UNDER and rolled over your winnings each year for 15 years, you'd have...**\$1,793,873.56** in the bank! The two teams combined for just 12 first downs. Air Force has a big edge considering they haven't played the last couple of weeks and have put all of their focus in to this game. The Falcons are averaging 336 rush ypg (al-

lowing just 106) and despite being short-handed have had a successful season. They take home the CIC trophy here but we're surprised they're laying almost a FG on the road.

WISCONSIN 31 Minnesota 17. Wisconsin has owned this series as they're on a 15-1 straight up run. Obviously, the Badgers have had a disappointing season at 2-3 as they've scored just a combined 20 points in their last 3 games! It should be noted that came against 3 of the better defenses in the Big Ten and they will be taking a step down in class against a Minnesota defense that allows 32 ppg and 432 ypg. Prior to last week, Minnesota had their last two games canceled because of a COVID outbreak on the team. They were missing 33 players last week and still, they upset Nebraska. However, we think Wisconsin will be highly motivated here to avoid a losing season and the Badgers defense allows just 251 ypg (No. 1 in the country). We lean Wisconsin.

PENN ST 35 Illinois 18. You have to give Penn State credit. After an 0-5 start (worst start in school history), they've won 3 straight games. The key to their success? Quite simply, QB Sean Clifford stopped throwing interceptions. The Nittany Lions were -9 in TO's the first 5 games (Clifford 8 INT's) and are EVEN in the turnover category the last 3 games (Clifford 1 INT). They've held their last two opponents to under 85 rushing yards and are +76 ypg which would indicate, they are a good team. On the other side, the Fighting Illini just fired head coach Lovie Smith and offensive coordinator Rod Smith will be the interim. The Illini are -91 ypg on the season and are allowing 227 rush ypg and a 70% completion rate on defense. We lean with Penn St here.

Michigan at Iowa was cancelled due to COVID issues at Michigan.

MARYLAND 27 Michigan St 26. Last week we cashed on these pages fading Maryland in their upset loss to Rutgers. Maryland QB Eric Najarian and Lance LeGendre were a combined 19 of 33 for 260 yards and a 2-2 ratio playing in place of Talia Tagovailoa who was out due to COVID. They're taking on a Michigan State team that blew a 21-10 halftime lead at Penn St last week. MSU QB Payton Thorne threw for 325 yards and 3 TD's. Thorne, who started his first game and looked confident, poised and in control for most of the afternoon and will start here. We need further clarification on Tagovailoa's status to get involved but we are looking to side with the Spartans.

UTAH 36 Washington St 23. Last week VIP customers got a nice winner with Utah as they flipped from dog to favorite in their easy win at previously unbeaten Colorado. The Utes are starting to find themselves after they were the last Power 5 team in the country to start the season. They're taking on a Washington St team that has seen 3 of their last 4 games cancelled due to COVID. Starting a true frosh QB on the road vs this tough Utah defense isn't the recipe for success. We think the Utes are a Top 25 team and aren't getting appropriately priced in the market. We lean with them here.

1★ Stanford (plus the points) UCLA 31 Stanford 27. Stanford is giving new definition to the term road warriors as this will be their 4th straight road trip. They've won their previous 3 games all by 5 points or less including last week 27-24 at Oregon St. QB Davis Mills is completing 65% of his passes and hasn't thrown an interception yet this season. They've also found a solid RB in Austin Jones who has 458 yards and 7 TD's. We do worry about their rush defense allowing 208 ypg. Despite a mediocre 3-3 record, the Bruins are a much improved team this year. They have outgained their opponents by 66 ypg and last week were +105 yards vs USC but lost in the final seconds 43-38. It was a very bad beat for their backers as they covered the entire game until :16 were left. QB Dorian Thompson-Robinson is completing 65% of his passes with a 12-4 ratio but will there be a hangover here? DTR after the game, "This isn't a normal game or a normal loss. This one hurts," Thompson-Robinson said. Last year's UCLA win snapped an 11-game losing streak in the series as the Bruins are just 2-10 ATS (-8 ppg) vs Stanford since 2009. UCLA wins but Stanford covers.

Arizona St 31 OREGON ST 25. Forty-Eight games in Forty years says it doesn't happen often but teams that cover the point-spread by 50 or more points in their last game are 28-20 ATS (58%) since 1980. That trend fits Arizona State as they humiliated their arch-rival Arizona last week 70-7 as 7.5-point road favorites (VIP customers got ASU!). The Sun Devils were incredibly +7 in TO's, scored the most points in Territorial Cup history and cost their biggest rival's coach his job. Now they're taking on a scrappy Oregon State team that all 4 of their losses are by 10-points or less and they've covered 4 of their last 5 games with the only non-cover coming by a 0.5-point in a 27-24 loss to Stanford last week. We think you're paying a premium on ASU after such a lopsided final and we lean with the Beavers.

Arizona at California was cancelled due to COVID issues at both schools.

Big Ten Championship Game - Lucas Oil Stadium - Indianapolis, IN

† **Ohio St 37 Northwestern 18.** This is the 2nd time in the last 3 years these two meet here for the Big Ten Championship. It's simple for No. 4 Ohio State... if they win, they'll be in the CFB Playoffs even with only playing 6 games. They have outscored their opponents by 24 ppg and outgained them by 169 ypg as they control the line of scrimmage with a 251-95 rush ypg margin. They are led by QB Justin Fields who is completing 78% of his passes with a 15-to-3 ratio and have two legit WR's in Garrett Wilson (572 yards) and Chris Olave (528). They're taking on a Northwestern team who rebounded off their first loss of the season by running over Illinois last week (411 rush yards). The Wildcats are allowing just 15 ppg on defense and while they have yet to see an offense even close to Ohio State's, we think it will be tough for OSU to get margin on them. Keep in mind, OSU doesn't need style points, they need to win. Lean Northwestern.

Big 12 Championship Game - AT&T Stadium - Arlington, TX

† **Oklahoma 33 Iowa State 26.** Since Matt Campbell showed up in Ames in 2016, Iowa State is a perfect 5-0 ATS vs Oklahoma with an average cover of 16 ppg. They pulled two outright upsets and haven't lost any game by more than 10 points. Iowa St won the earlier meeting this year 37-30 as 7.5-point home underdogs. The game was as close as the final as the Cyclones had a 417-414 yard edge. The Sooners have been red-hot since winning 6 straight games by an average of 25.8 ppg and are 5-1 ATS with an average cover of 10 ppg. QB Spencer Rattler has started to settle in as he is completing 68.5% of his passes with a 24-7 ratio. The Cyclones have also been pretty impressive with 5 straight wins led by RB Breece Hall who leads the nation with 1,357 rush yards. Oklahoma has now been in the Big 12 Title game 12 times winning 10 of their previous 11 trips while this is Iowa State's first appearance. That experience edge is the difference.

Sun Belt Championship Game - Brooks Stadium - Conway, SC

2★ **UL-Lafayette 29 Coastal Carolina 28.** Coastal Carolina won the first meeting 30-27 as 9-point road underdogs. The game came down to the wire and Coastal only had a 414-413 yard edge. ULL's loss in that game is the only one between these two teams this season as they come in with an impressive combined 20-1 record and both are in the Top 20. We cashed on these pages last week fading Coastal as the Chanticleers were in a horrible spot off the big BYU upset and having this game on deck. They nearly lost outright to Troy as a 2-TD favorite needing a TD with :35 left to escape. Head coach Jamey Chadwell had griped about the Sun Belt making Coastal playing that game while Louisiana had an open date. The Chanticleers had some injuries, including left tackle Antwine Loper, who the coach said would miss the title game. "Thank you, Commish," Chadwell said, referring to Sun Belt Commissioner Keith Gill. The revenge factor and the rest factor has us backing ULL here. Also we like that they've lost the last 2 years in the SBC Championship game and will be highly motivated.

ACC Championship Game - Bank of America Stadium - Charlotte, NC

† **Clemson 36 Notre Dame 24.** Notre Dame won the earlier meeting this year 47-40 in double-overtime as 5-point home underdogs in what was easily the game of the year so far in CFB. Statistically, the Irish dominated Clemson at the line of scrimmage with a 209-34 rushing yard edge. That was the most rush yards given up by Clemson in a game since 2016 and the fewest rush yards gained by them since 2011 so it's been a long-time since they were controlled like that and RB Travis Etienne has been bottled up for the most part this season. Obviously, QB Trevor Lawrence (69%, 20-3 ratio this year) didn't play in that one but DJ Uiagalelei threw for 439 yards, the most passing yards ever allowed by a Notre Dame defense. Where Lawrence will be an upgrade is the Tigers use him more in the QB run game. Clemson was also without starting LB James Skalski who is the QB of the defense along with a few others up front who will return here. The Tigers have won 5 straight ACC Championship games (5-0 ATS) while Notre Dame is making their first and probably only conference championship game as they go back to Independent next season. The Irish are led by QB Ian Book, whose 30 career wins are a ND record. The Irish have lost their starting center since the last meeting vs Clemson and D.C. Clark Lea was just named head coach at Vanderbilt (will still coach here). That has us leaning with the Tigers. Since 2012, Clemson in the post-season (ACC Championship games, bowls and playoffs) is 14-3 straight up with an average win by 14 ppg and 14-3 ATS with an average cover of 11 ppg.

AAC Championship Game - Nippert Stadium - Cincinnati, OH

1★ **Tulsa (plus the points) Cincinnati 29 Tulsa 17.** These two were supposed to play last week at Tulsa but the game was cancelled due to COVID issues at Cincinnati. Both teams haven't played much the last 3 weeks with only one combined game between the two (Tulsa's win over Navy) so there could be some rust especially on the Cincinnati side. A win here for the Bearcats and they will be playing in a major bowl game for the first time since 2009. They are led by QB Desmond Ridder who is completing 67% of his passes with a 16-6 ratio and has added 526 rush yards (7.9 ypc) and 11 TD's. The defense allows only 15 ppg. Meanwhile, Tulsa comes with far less fan-fare but their defense is allowing just 20 ppg on the season and held powerful offenses like Oklahoma St, UCF and SMU to 26 points or less. It will be tough to get margin on them here. We like Tulsa.

SEC Championship Game - Mercedes-Benz Stadium - Atlanta, GA

† **Alabama 46 Florida 28.** We think its time to start discussing Alabama as a potential best team ever if they finish this season as National Champs. Right now their 33 ppg scoring margin is the best ever under Saban and that's all vs SEC competition this season. Alabama has also covered 7 straight games by 14 ppg, the best streak under Saban. Where are the weaknesses? They have one of the best QB's in the country in Mac Jones (76%, 27-3 ratio), one of the best RB's in Najee Harris (22 TD's) and the best WR DeVonta Smith (1,327 yards and 15 TD's). They're taking on a Florida team that is reeling after their shocking upset loss to LSU last week as 23-point favorites. It was a very misleading game (see page 1) but the Gators certainly weren't locked in. Obviously, QB Kyle Trask and his 40-to-5 TD-to-INT ratio leads the way for them and they will get back TE Kyle Pitts (11 TD's) who sat out the LSU game. WR KaDarius Toney (831 receiving yards and 9 TD's) is another great weapon but the Gators can't run the ball (127 rush ypg) and their defense is questionable allowing 26 ppg. The Tide roll but we don't see much value in the side and total.

Mountain West Championship Game - Sam Boyd Stadium - Las Vegas, NV

† **Boise St 31 San Jose St 24.** Obviously, Boise has been here and done that before making their 5th appearance in the Mountain West Championship game while San Jose State is making their first appearance. That's certainly priced into the number as statistically San Jose St has better ppg and ypg margins but it also helps San Jose's stats that they didn't play BYU like Boise did. The Spartans are 6-0 for the first time since 1939 and last week rallied from a 20-7 halftime deficit to beat Nevada 30-20. Former Texas A&M QB Nick Starkel leads the offense completing 66% of his passes with an 11-3 ratio and the defense only allows 128 rushing ypg and 18 ppg, a far cry from the 232 rushing ypg and 32 ppg just one year ago. Meanwhile, Boise hasn't been their dominant self as they haven't been at full strength this year due to injury and COVID issues. WR Kahlil Shakir is their best weapon on offense (634 yards). Originally, we thought we were going to like Boise in this game but after diving in further, we're sitting it out.

Texas A&M 33 Tennessee 20. Obviously, Texas A&M has some playoff hopes sitting at No. 5 in the playoff rankings but likely need a Northwestern upset of Ohio St or Notre Dame to upset Clemson to get in. We also think you're paying a bit of a premium on them here as there is that "style points" narrative out there. The Aggies beat us on these pages in their last game with a 17-0 run out in the fourth quarter to avoid an upset at Auburn. The offense is led by QB Kellen Mond who has a 18-to-2 ratio while RB Isaiah Spiller has 904 rush yards. The Aggies have controlled the line of scrimmage with a 201-101 rush ypg margin. Meanwhile, we cashed on these pages with Tennessee last week in their blowout win over Vanderbilt. That stopped a school-record 6-game losing streak. Their run defense has allowed just 72 total rush yards the last two weeks and we think they can stay inside the number here.

Vanderbilt at Georgia is cancelled due to COVID issues at Vanderbilt.

LSU 38 Ole Miss 37. All the money this week so far has come in on Ole Miss as they have now flipped to a road favorite. The Rebels have only played one game since November 14th due to COVID issues and we're wondering if their high-powered offense averaging 40 ppg and 564 ypg will show a little rust here. QB Matt Corral is having a great season completing 73% of his passes and WR Elijah Moore has 1,193 yards in just 8 games. The defense is an issue allowing 39 ppg and 529 ypg. Meanwhile, LSU is off by far their best performance of the season as they pulled the shocker at Florida as 23-point underdogs. The games was misleading (see page 1) but LSU QB Max Johnson got the start and was 21 of 36 for 239 yards and 3 TD's. "Boy, his confidence was incredible," Orgeron said. "I think Max is going to be a championship quarterback." The Tigers have allowed 485 ypg on defense this year and you wonder if this will be D.C. Bo Pelini's final game after only one year. We lean with the home team trying to get to .500 on the season.

Missouri 27 Mississippi St 26. A match-up of two first-year coaches that have had disparate seasons. First, Missouri's season under Eli Drinkwitz has been a success as the Tigers are 5-4. They have gotten solid play from QB Connor Bazelak and RB Larry Rountree (851 yards, 12 TD's) is their top offensive player. However, the Tigers defense has allowed 566 yards and 615 yards the last two weeks as they were completely run over by Georgia last week (out-gained by 415 yards). On the other side, Miss St has lost 7 of their last 8 games as their offense is averaging only 17 ppg in the first year of the "Air Raid" under Mike Leach. Their defense has been a surprise allowing just 28 ppg but they've allowed at least 478 yards in 3 of their last 5 games. We lean OVER.

The Frisco Bowl between UTSA and SMU was cancelled due to COVID issues at SMU.

Attention Powers' Picks Subscribers

In a normal season, we would send out our bowl write-ups and picks by the week (usually 12-14 bowl games at a time). However, in this unusual year with so many question marks about opt outs and COVID, we are going to send out bowl updates every couple of days this bowl season. The first update will be sent on Monday at 12:00pm ET (first bowl game kicks off at 2:30 and we don't anticipate having a big play on it). While the first 8 bowl games have been announced, there are only a few books that have lines up on those games and they were just posted yesterday. We would rather have more up-to-date information before sending out a bunch of picks. For those of you in bowl pools, we will give out our early confidence picks in next Monday's update at 12:00pm ET. Remember, most of the bowl games won't be announced until Sunday afternoon so there is a very tight window to digest a lot of information.

Week 16 Computer Projected Lines for Every CFB Game

For the past four seasons we have posted computer projected lines for every game. Games where there was of difference of more than 3 points saw our computer lines actually beat the Vegas line at a 302-252-12 (55%) clip the last three years. That's pretty solid and actually better than our own handicapping in some seasons. Last week's plays went 8-0 and now the record for this year is 64-46. Keep in mind, these computer lines don't take into consideration off-the-field factors like revenge or flat spots. They are basically a power-rating number difference between the two teams that also takes into consideration the home field advantage.

Of the 6 games where our computer is off more than 3 points compared to the Vegas line (highlighted), our favorite team this week to back would be **Stanford +7**.

The Comp column is the computer projected line and the Diff column is the difference between the Vegas line and the Computer line. "+" numbers in the difference column say back the underdog. "-" numbers in the difference column say back the favorite. Let us know if you have questions.

Friday, Dec 18th	Line	Comp	Diff
CUSA Championship Game			
195 UAB			
196 Marshall	-5.5	-7.0	-1.5
MAC Championship Game			
197 Ball State			
198 Buffalo	-13.5	-10.4	+3.1
207 Nebraska			
208 Rutgers	+6.5	+6.6	-0.1
209 Purdue			
210 Indiana	Cancelled		
Pac-12 Championship Game			
251 Oregon			
252 USC	-3	-4.2	-1.2
Saturday, Dec 7th			
203 Florida State			
204 Wake Forest	-6.5	-8.3	-1.8
205 Air Force			
206 Army	+2.5	-1.2	+3.7
211 Minnesota			
212 Wisconsin	-12.5	-14.1	-1.6
213 Illinois			
214 Penn State	-15	-15.2	-0.2
215 Michigan			
216 Iowa	Cancelled		
217 Michigan State			
218 Maryland	-2.5	+0.7	+3.2
219 Washington State			
220 Utah	-10.5	-12.6	-2.1
221 Stanford			
222 UCLA	-7	-3.4	+3.6
225 Arizona State			
226 Oregon State	+7.5	+5.4	+2.1

Saturday, Dec 7th	Line	Comp	Diff
227 Arizona			
228 California	Cancelled		
Big Ten Championship Game			
229 Northwestern			
230 Ohio State	-20.5	-18.4	+2.1
Big 12 Championship Game			
231 Oklahoma			
232 Iowa State	+5.5	+4.9	+0.6
Sun Belt Championship Game			
233 UL-Lafayette			
234 Coastal Carolina	-3.5	-3.0	+0.5
ACC Championship Game			
235 Clemson			
236 Notre Dame	+10.5	+10.3	+0.2
AAC Championship Game			
237 Tulsa			
238 Cincinnati	-14.5	-15.3	-0.8
SEC Championship Game			
239 Alabama			
240 Florida	+17	+17.1	-0.1
Mountain West Championship Game			
241 Boise State			
242 San Jose State	+6.5	+6.6	-0.1
243 Texas A&M			
244 Tennessee	+14	+10.6	+3.4
245 Vanderbilt			
246 Georgia	Cancelled		
247 Ole Miss			
248 LSU	+2.5	-1.3	+3.8
249 Missouri			
250 Mississippi State	+1	+1.8	-0.8

Week 16 CFB ATS Trends

1. Wake Forest is a 6.5-point favorite vs Florida State this week. That's the largest favorite role for the Demon Deacons in the 29-game series history dating back to 1980. On average, they've been a 23-point underdog in the series.
2. Air Force has dominated Army going 26-5 straight up (+13 ppg) and 22-9 ATS (+3.4 ppg) since 1989. This week the Falcons are 2.5-point road favorites.
3. The UNDER has cashed in 6 straight meetings between Army and Air Force by an average of 19 ppg. This week's total is 37.5.
4. Wisconsin has owned Minnesota as they're on a 15-1 straight up run with an average win by 14 ppg. This week the Badgers are 12-point home favorites.
5. Stanford is on a 11-1 straight up (+14 ppg) and 10-2 ATS (+8 ppg) run vs UCLA. This week the Cardinal are 7-point underdogs.
6. It doesn't happen often but teams that cover the point-spread by 50 or more points in their last game are 28-20 ATS (58%) since 1980. That trend fits Arizona State this week as they are 7.5-point road favorites at Oregon St.
7. Since 1980, Ohio St is 26-1 straight up (+30 ppg) and 17-9-1 ATS (+7.5 ppg) vs Northwestern. This week the Buckeyes are 20.5-point favorites.
8. Since Matt Campbell showed up in Ames in 2016, Iowa State is a perfect 5-0 ATS vs Oklahoma with an average cover of 16 ppg. They pulled two outright upsets and haven't lost any game by more than 10 points. Iowa St is a 5.5-point dog to OU this week.

Betting CFB Openers

Every Sunday in Vegas at 11am PT, Circa Sports is the first book in the world to release CFB lines and we bet them every week. We think it's the best value bets we make all week. So far this season we are 112-75-3 (60%) on these Sunday bets with an average line value of 2.6 ppg! Last week we made 18 bets. We beat the closing line by an average of 2.3 ppg and went 14-4. Below is some of what we bet this week.
 (195) UAB OVER 40.5...now 42...lean.
 (197) Ball St +14...now +13.5...lean.
 (203) Florida State +11...now +6.5...lean Wake Forest.
 (213) Illinois OVER 50.5...now 52...lean.
 (217) Michigan State +4...now +2.5...lean.
 (220) Utah -10...now -10.5...lean.
 (221) Stanford +8...now...+7...like.
 (230) Ohio State UNDER 58.5...now 57...lean.
 (233) UL-Lafayette OVER 53.5...now 55...lean.
 (233) UL-Lafayette +4...now +3.5...like.
 (236) Notre Dame UNDER 61.5...now 60...pass.
 (237) Tulsa +16...now +14.5...like.

Updated College Football Power Ratings for Week 16

Rank	Team	Pre	12/16	Rank	Team	Pre	12/16	Rank	Team	Pre	12/16	Rank	Team	Pre	12/16	Rank	Team	Pre	12/16	Biggest Movers Since Preseason	Pts
1	Alabama	94.97	105.47	33	Tennessee	78.63	74.63	65	Washington State	70.25	68.25	97	Hawaii	60.86	58.36	103	Coa. Carolina	+16.0			
2	Clemson	96.42	99.42	34	Pittsburgh	73.92	74.42	66	Liberty	55.20	68.20	98	Arizona	65.24	58.24	104	Liberty	+13.0			
3	Ohio State	98.16	96.66	35	UCLA	68.16	74.16	67	Kansas State	72.07	67.07	99	Rice	54.94	57.44	105	Alabama	+10.0			
4	Georgia	89.50	90.00	36	Coastal Carolina	57.39	73.39	68	Texas Tech	72.54	67.04	100	Florida Atlantic	62.31	57.31	106	BYU	+9.5			
5	Notre Dame	86.16	89.16	37	Louisville	75.84	73.34	69	Michigan State	67.71	66.21	101	Miami (OH)	59.52	57.02	107	San Jose State	+9.0			
6	Oklahoma	88.77	88.77	38	Virginia	72.59	73.09	70	San Diego State	64.12	66.12	102	Western Kentucky	66.17	56.67	108	Cincinnati	+8.5			
7	Florida	87.90	88.40	39	Boise State	74.07	73.07	71	San Jose State	57.00	66.00	103	UTSA	49.66	56.66	109	Marshall	+8.0			
8	Texas A&M	86.23	87.23	40	Missouri	69.95	72.95	72	Georgia Tech	69.11	65.61	104	USF	62.65	56.65	110	Arkansas	+7.0			
9	Iowa State	79.87	84.87	41	Nebraska	75.01	72.51	73	Florida State	76.86	65.36	105	Arkansas State	60.16	56.16	111	UTSA	+7.0			
10	Iowa	79.68	84.68	42	Stanford	74.98	72.48	74	UAB	67.13	65.13	106	Syracuse	62.38	55.88	112	Arizona	-7.0			
11	Cincinnati	74.79	83.29	43	Buffalo	67.60	72.10	75	Illinois	67.52	65.02	107	Eastern Michigan	54.74	55.74	113	Oregon	-7.0			
12	Wisconsin	87.48	82.98	44	California	74.06	72.06	76	Rutgers	57.87	64.37	108	Charlotte	56.97	54.97	114	Kentucky	-7.0			
13	North Carolina	81.71	82.71	45	Wake Forest	66.46	71.96	77	Maryland	61.98	63.98	109	Vanderbilt	58.19	54.69	115	Louisiana Tech	-7.0			
14	Texas	84.24	81.24	46	Boston College	68.90	71.90	78	Toledo	60.87	63.37	110	Louisiana Tech	60.07	53.07	116	UNLV	-7.0			
15	USC	83.71	81.21	47	Minnesota	78.17	71.67	79	South Carolina	74.35	63.35	111	Middle Tennessee	59.02	53.02	117	Memphis	-7.5			
16	Indiana	78.68	81.18	48	UL-Lafayette	68.86	71.36	80	Air Force	64.74	63.24	112	South Alabama	52.51	52.51	118	FIU	-7.5			
17	Auburn	85.95	80.95	49	Kentucky	78.24	71.24	81	Nevada	60.11	63.11	113	Northern Illinois	55.23	52.23	119	Penn State	-9.0			
18	BYU	70.88	80.38	50	Michigan	83.60	71.10	82	Army	62.22	62.72	114	Texas State	49.20	52.20	120	W. Kentucky	-9.5			
19	Oregon	86.52	79.52	51	Houston	71.01	71.01	83	Western Michigan	60.41	62.41	115	New Mexico	49.98	51.98	121	Kansas	-9.5			
20	Oklahoma State	81.00	79.50	52	Arkansas	63.97	70.97	84	Ball State	59.71	61.71	116	Southern Miss	61.74	51.74	122	Southern Miss	-10.0			
21	Miami (FL)	76.16	79.16	53	Purdue	72.85	70.85	85	Duke	67.85	61.35	117	North Texas	54.76	50.76	123	Bowling Green	-10.0			
22	Northwestern	73.72	78.22	54	Tulsa	64.97	70.47	86	Ohio	64.80	60.30	118	Kansas	59.13	49.63	124	South Carolina	-11.0			
23	UCF	81.20	78.20	55	Marshall	62.12	70.12	87	Kent State	56.69	60.19	119	Temple	63.46	48.96	125	Navy	-11.5			
24	Utah	79.56	78.06	56	NC State	69.38	69.88	88	Colorado State	62.10	60.10	120	FIU	55.27	47.77	126	Florida State	-11.5			
25	TCU	75.70	77.70	57	Colorado	64.73	69.73	89	Wyoming	64.53	60.03	121	Utah State	59.25	47.25	127	Utah State	-12.0			
26	Penn State	86.17	77.17	58	Oregon State	68.53	69.53	90	Fresno State	62.75	59.75	122	UNLV	52.54	45.54	128	Michigan	-12.5			
27	Ole Miss	76.12	76.62	59	Tulane	66.41	69.41	91	Georgia State	54.99	59.49	123	UTEP	40.04	43.54	129	LSU	-13.0			
28	Arizona State	73.17	76.17	60	Memphis	76.61	69.11	92	Troy	60.01	59.01	124	Akron	43.46	38.46	130	UL-Monroe	-13.5			
29	Washington	78.81	75.81	61	Mississippi State	69.67	68.67	93	East Carolina	57.91	58.91	125	UL-Monroe	51.86	38.36	131	Temple	-14.5			
30	Virginia Tech	78.94	75.44	62	SMU	69.06	68.56	94	Central Michigan	61.17	58.67	126	Massachusetts	36.36	33.36						
31	LSU	87.88	74.88	63	Appalachian State	72.03	68.53	95	Navy	70.10	58.60	127	Bowling Green	43.28	33.28						
32	West Virginia	72.34	74.84	64	Baylor	74.37	68.37	96	Georgia Southern	63.00	58.50										

4★ = BEST
3★ = BETTER
2★ = GOOD
1★ = FAIR

THE POWERS' PACK

2★ DENVER (+6.5) over Buffalo
1★ New England (+2.5) over MIAMI
1★ MINNESOTA (-3) over Chicago

Games in Rotation Order
Thursday, December 17th

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

LAS VEGAS 28 L.A. Chargers 25. The Raiders come in off the 17-point loss to Indy last week where we easily cashed the OVER on these pages (OVER 9-3-1 in Raiders games this year). Las Vegas has now failed to cover in 3 straight games and it looks like their playoff hopes are slipping away. They fired their DC after the defense has allowed at least 30 points in 8 games. Meanwhile, the Chargers playoff hopes have been gone for awhile now but they did get a win and cover last week over the Falcons thanks to a last-second FG. That stopped a streak of 6 straight non-covers. The Raiders held on to beat the Chargers 31-26 in the first meeting when Justin Herbert's 4-yard TD pass to Donald Parham on the final play was over-turned. Pass.

Saturday, December 19th

GREEN BAY 30 Carolina 21. The Packers now have the inside track to the No. 1 seed in the NFC after the Saints loss to the Eagles last week. The Packers own the tie-breaker and can really distance themselves this week with the Saints being home dogs to the Chiefs. Meanwhile, the Panthers are off to their worst start (4-9) since 2012. It was expected to be a rebuilding season but last week's loss to the Broncos after a bye was disappointing (Panthers were 4-point favorites). We respect Teddy Bridgewater and the Panthers are on a 7-1 ATS run as underdogs but Teddy has lost 7 straight starts now. Once again, the Packers look like a really good teaser option teasing down to -2.5 and through key numbers of 7 and 3.

2★ Denver (plus the points) Buffalo 24 DENVER 21. We like the Broncos here. We did have the Bills last week on these pages in their 11-point win over Pittsburgh on SNF (Bills 334-224 yard edge). They are red-hot with 5 straight covers but this is their 3rd game in 12 days and we think this could be a flat spot (MNF at New England on deck). Meanwhile, the Broncos have been an underdog in every game so far this season but yet have won 5 games and covered 8. They're playing their best ball of the season with a upset win over Miami, a cover at KC and an upset of Carolina last week. The only stinker in the last 4 weeks was when their entire QB room was out with COVID vs New Orleans. That gives us value.

Sunday, December 20th

INDIANAPOLIS 29 Houston 23. These two just met a couple weeks ago with Indy getting a 26-20 win as 3-point road favorites thanks to a fumbled snap by Houston late. Believe it or not, the Colts have been favored in every game but one this season (1-point dog at Cleveland) but each of their last 6 games have seen them listed as a FG or less favorite and now they're laying a full TD. A lot of it has to do with Houston off a blowout loss last week and with not much to play for. Meanwhile, Indy is off a blowout win (we did cash the OVER with them). We mentioned this stat a few weeks ago but when division rivals meet twice in a 3-week span, the team that lost the first meeting is 19-5 ATS in the second. Slight lean Houston.

TENNESSEE 31 Detroit 21. Detroit QB Matthew Stafford's availability is in question here after suffering some bruised ribs. The Lions have covered two straight under interim coach Darrell Bevell but really don't have much to play for. Meanwhile, the Titans got a rare cover as a favorite last week in running over the Jags. RB Derrick Henry had 215 yards. Not a lot of shops have this line posted so we're passing for now. If Stafford can't go, Chase Daniel is about a 3-point downgrade.

L.A. RAMS 30 N.Y. Jets 13. 17-point or more favorites in the NFL are 35-3 straight up. They used to be a long-time loser ATS wise (6-20-1 ATS from 1989-2011) but are 9-2 ATS in the last 11 since 2012. The Rams have extra rest after crushing the Pats on TNF 24-3. They've now won and covered 4 of their last 5 games. Meanwhile, the Jets were crushed by the Seahawks 40-3 to drop to 0-13 on the season and will give a better effort here. The last we read instead of staying on the West Coast, they're making back-to-back long trips. Not ideal but we're not laying 17 here.

Tampa Bay 27 ATLANTA 23. The Bucs came out of the bye with a 26-14 win over the Vikings last week. However, Minnesota had 26-17 first down and 335-303 yard edges as the final was misleading. Meanwhile, the Falcons lost on a last-second FG at the Chargers last week. QB Matt Ryan did have 3 INT's in that one. Yes, the Falcons are out of the playoff hunt, but we're not sure that warrants a 4.5-point move from last week's look-ahead line (Tampa Bay -1.5). We lean with Atlanta here.

1★ New England 20 MIAMI 19. Belichick has extra time to prep after the embarrassing 24-3 loss to the Rams on TNF. The Pats are 9-2 SU (+14 ppg) and 9-2 ATS (+11 ppg) off a 20-point or more loss since 2003. They're taking on a Miami-team that is a league-best 10-3 ATS this year but got a fortunate cover last week vs KC (outscored the Chiefs 17-3 in 4Q). We already saw what Belichick did to rookie QB Herbert this season (Belichick 65% ATS vs 1st or 2nd-year QB's) and while the Dolphins are much better coached than the Chargers, we like the Pats here. Keep an eye on the injury report as Miami is banged up at RB and WR. Teasing New England up to +8.5 seems like a slam dunk.

Seattle 26 WASHINGTON 20. We lost on these pages last week fading Washington as they scored two defensive TD's vs San Francisco (SF had dominant 21-12 first down and 344-193 yard edges). The "Football Team" has now won and covered 4 straight games to take the lead in the NFC East. However, QB Alex Smith is dealing with a calf injury and we think they're over-valued in the market coming off 3 straight road upsets (only the 5th time that's happened since 1989). They're taking on a Seattle team that extended little energy in a blowout win over the Jets last week and the Seahawks have fared okay on the East Coast this year (3-1 SU). Lean SEA.

1★ MINNESOTA 27 Chicago 21. The look-ahead line on this game was Minnesota -6.5 and we think there's been a clear over-reaction to last week's results. Yes, the Vikings lost by 12 to Tampa Bay but they had 27-17 first down and 335-303 yard edges but were done in by 3 missed FG's. Meanwhile, the Bears crushed the Texans 36-7 to snap a 6-game losing streak. The Vikings dominated the first meeting much more than the 19-13 final as they had a 385-149 yard edge. The Vikings were 3-point road favorites in that game, but have failed to cover 4 straight games. That's why we think they're cheap here laying only 3 at home.

BALTIMORE 29 Jacksonville 18. Clear flat spot for Baltimore on short rest after the NFL Game of the Year on MNF in the thrilling 47-42 win over the Browns that also featured a really bad beat (see page 1). On the other side, yes, Jacksonville is 1-12 SU on the season but they have gone just 1-6 in one-possession games so they haven't been crushed a bunch. Jacksonville also might get a bump with Minshew back at QB. We lean with the big dog here.

Cleveland 24 N.Y. GIANTS 20. Raise your hand if you had this game being flexed out to SNF in the summer? While a rare non-conference match-up late in the season, this one has playoff implications for both teams. It will be interesting to see how Cleveland responds after losing the heart-breaker on MNF. This is the first of two straight games in the stadium as they play the Jets next week. Safe to say they need to win both. Meanwhile, the Giants are off their worst performance since September as they were beat by the Cardinals 26-7. The return of Daniel Jones produced just 159 total yards and 3 TO's. Not sure we see much value here.

ARIZONA 25 Philadelphia 21. Maybe Carson Wentz was the problem after all as last week the Eagles got their best win of the season upsetting the Saints 24-21 as 7.5-point home underdogs. QB Jalen Hurts had 167 passing yards and a 100 yards rushing in his first start and he will once again start here. However, now the Cardinals have a full game of tape on him and we'll see if he can be as effective. Speaking of the Cardinals, they broke a 5-game ATS skid by beating the Giants 26-7 last week. QB Murray looked healthier with 13 rush attempts. However, we don't want to lay nearly a full-TD against a Philly team that could be playing with renewed enthusiasm. Lean Philly and the UNDER.

Kansas City 27 NEW ORLEANS 24. Obviously, one of the biggest games of the year between the AFC's best team and a New Orleans team that was the No. 1 seed in the NFC until last week's upset loss at Philadelphia. Maybe, they were caught looking ahead to this game as that loss broke their 9-game win streak. They also had to face a first-time starting QB and their run defense was gashed for 246 yards (most allowed by the Saints since 2014). The Chiefs have won 8 straight games but have failed to cover in 5 straight as they look bored at times and don't always play to their abilities for all 60 minutes. As of pres-time the Saints haven't decided if they are going to bring back Drew Brees for this one. If he does come back, rust could be an issue. As with most high-profile match-ups, we don't see much value here.

San Francisco 25 DALLAS 21. Obviously, this doesn't have the same stakes as so many of their match-ups in the 1980's and 1990's. We've now lost 2 straight weeks on these pages with the 49ers as last week's loss to Washington was misleading as the 49ers had 21-12 first down and 344-193 yard edges but were done in by not one, but two Washington defensive TD's. They're taking on a Dallas team off one of their better performances, a blowout win over Cincinnati although note they were +3 in TO's and were outgained 309-272. We're guessing San Francisco is due for a cover.

Monday, December 21st

Pittsburgh 26 CINCINNATI 13. Obviously, after suffering two straight losses the Steelers need a feel-good win before facing Indianapolis and Cleveland in the final two weeks. They've now lost their grip on the No. 1 seed in the AFC as we cashed against them last week in their loss at Buffalo. They're taking on a Cincinnati that has been anemic offensively without QB Joe Burrow. They haven't topped 17 points in any of their last 5 games and won't here. Lean UNDER.

Favorite Teaser Play:

2-team 6-pointer on Green Bay -2.5 and New England +8.5

Kansas St (SU: 4-6, ATS: 6-4, O/U: 6-4)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Arkansas State, Texas Tech, Oklahoma, Texas Tech, TCU, Kansas, West Virginia, Oklahoma State, Iowa State, Baylor, Texas, etc.

Kent State (SU: 3-1, ATS: 2-2, O/U: 3-1)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Eastern Michigan, Bowling Green, Akron, Buffalo, Miami (OH), Ohio.

Kentucky (SU: 4-6, ATS: 4-5-1, O/U: 4-6)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Auburn, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Missouri, Georgia, Vanderbilt, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina.

Liberty (SU: 9-1, ATS: 8-2, O/U: 6-4)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include WKU, FIU, North Alabama, UN-Monroe, Syracuse, Southern Miss, Virginia Tech, Western Carolina, NC State, Massachusetts, Coastal Carolina.

Louisiana Tech (SU: 5-4, ATS: 4-5, O/U: 6-3)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Southern Miss, Houston Baptist, BYU, UTEP, Marshall, UTSA, UAB-2ot, Rice, UL-Monroe, FIU, North Texas, TCU, Georgia Southern.

Louisville (SU: 4-7, ATS: 5-5-1, O/U: 7-4)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Kentucky, Miami (FL), Pittsburgh, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, Syracuse, Boston College, Wake Forest, LSU, Marshall, South Carolina, Auburn, Arkansas, Texas A&M, Alabama, Florida, Ole Miss.

Marshall (SU: 7-1, ATS: 5-3, O/U: 5-3)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include East Kentucky, Appalachian St, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, Auburn, Arkansas, Texas A&M, Alabama, Florida, Ole Miss, Rice, Charlotte, UAB.

Maryland (SU: 2-3, ATS: 2-3, O/U: 1-4)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Northwestern, Minnesota-ot, Penn State, Ohio State, Indiana, Michigan, Rutgers-ot, Michigan State.

Massachusetts (SU: 0-4, ATS: 2-2, O/U: 1-3)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Ga Southern, Marshall, Florida Atl, Liberty.

Memphis (SU: 7-3, ATS: 3-7, O/U: 3-5-2)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Arkansas State, UTSA, SMU, UCF, Temple, Cincinnati, USF, Stephen F. Austin, Navy, Tulane, Houston, Miami, FIU, UAB, Louisville, Florida State, Clemson, Pittsburgh, Virginia, NC State, Virginia Tech.

Miami, FL (SU: 8-2, ATS: 6-4, O/U: 5-5)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include UAB, Louisville, Florida State, Clemson, Pittsburgh, Virginia, NC State, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest, Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh, Duke, North Carolina, Georgia Tech.

Miami, OH (SU: 2-1, ATS: 2-1, O/U: 1-2)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Ball State, Buffalo, Ohio, Akron, Kent State, Bowling Green.

Michigan (SU: 2-4, ATS: 1-5, O/U: 4-2)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Minnesota, Michigan State, Indiana, Rutgers, Wisconsin-3ot, Penn State, Maryland, Ohio State, Michigan State (SU: 2-5, ATS: 2-5, O/U: 5-2), Rutgers, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Maryland, Middle Tennessee, Army, Troy, UTSA, West Kentucky, FIU, North Texas, Rice-2ot, Charlotte, Marshall, Troy, Florida Atlantic.

Minnesota (SU: 3-3, ATS: 3-3, O/U: 3-3)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Michigan, Maryland-ot, Illinois, Iowa, Purdue, Northwestern, Nebraska, Wisconsin.

Mississippi St (SU: 2-7, ATS: 3-6, O/U: 2-7)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include LSU, Arkansas, Kentucky, Texas A&M, Alabama, Vanderbilt, Georgia, Ole Miss, Auburn, Missouri.

Missouri (SU: 5-4, ATS: 5-4, O/U: 4-5)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Alabama, Tennessee, LSU, Kentucky, Florida, South Carolina, Vanderbilt, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi St, BYU, Tulane, Air Force, Temple, East Carolina, Houston, SMU, Tulsa, USF, Memphis, Tulsa, Army.

Navy (SU: 3-7, ATS: 4-6, O/U: 5-4-1)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Wake Forest, Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh, Virginia, Duke, North Carolina, Miami (FL), Florida State, Liberty, Syracuse, Georgia Tech, Nebraska, Ohio State, Wisconsin, Northwestern, Penn State, Illinois, Iowa, Purdue, Minnesota, Rutgers, Wyoming-ot, UNLV, Utah State, New Mexico, San Diego State, Hawaii, Fresno State, San Jose State, Tulane.

New Mexico (SU: 2-5, ATS: 4-3, O/U: 4-3)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Colorado State, San Jose State, Hawaii, Nevada, Air Force, New Mexico, Wyoming, Fresno State, San Jose State, Tulane.

North Carolina (SU: 8-3, ATS: 5-6, O/U: 6-5)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Syracuse, Charlotte, Boston College, Virginia Tech, Florida State, NC State, Virginia, Duke, Wake Forest, Notre Dame, Western Carolina, Miami (FL).

North Texas (SU: 4-5, ATS: 3-6, O/U: 6-3)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Houston Baptist, SMU, Houston, Southern Miss, Charlotte, Middle Tenn, UAB, Rice, UTSA, Louisiana Tech, UTEP, Appalachian St.

Northern Illinois (SU: 0-6, ATS: 2-4, O/U: 3-1)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Buffalo, Central Michigan, Ball State, Western Mich, Toledo, Eastern Mich.

Northwestern (SU: 6-1, ATS: 5-1-1, O/U: 1-6)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Maryland, Iowa, Nebraska, Purdue, Wisconsin, Michigan St, Minnesota, Ohio State.

Notre Dame (SU: 10-0, ATS: 5-5, O/U: 6-4)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Duke, USF, Florida State, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Georgia Tech, Clemson-2ot, Boston College, North Carolina, Syracuse, Clemson.

Ohio State (SU: 2-1, ATS: 1-2, O/U: 2-1)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Central Mich, Akron, Miami (OH), Bowling Green, Buffalo, Kent State.

Ohio State (SU: 5-0, ATS: 3-2, O/U: 3-1-1)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Nebraska, Penn State, Rutgers, Maryland, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan St, Michigan, Northwestern.

Oklahoma (SU: 7-2, ATS: 5-4, O/U: 5-4)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Missouri State, Kansas State, Iowa State, Texas Tech, Kansas, Oklahoma State, Baylor, West Virginia, Iowa State.

Oklahoma St (SU: 7-3, ATS: 4-6, O/U: 3-7)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Tulsa, West Virginia, Kansas, Iowa State, Texas-ot, Kansas State, Oklahoma, Baylor, West Virginia, Iowa State, Tulsa, South Carolina, Mississippi State, Texas A&M, LSU.

Oregon (SU: 3-2, ATS: 2-3, O/U: 3-1-1)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Stanford, Washington St, UCLA, Oregon State, California, Washington, Colorado.

Oregon State (SU: 2-4, ATS: 4-2, O/U: 4-2)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Washington St, Washington, California, Oregon, Utah, Stanford, Arizona State.

Penn State (SU: 3-5, ATS: 3-5, O/U: 3-4-1)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Indiana-ot, Ohio State, Maryland, Nebraska, Iowa, Michigan, Rutgers, Michigan State, Illinois, Austin Peay, Syracuse, Louisville, NC State, Boston Coll-ot, Miami (FL), Notre Dame, Florida State, Virginia Tech, Clemson.

Pittsburgh (SU: 6-5, ATS: 3-6-1, O/U: 7-3)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Rutgers, Syracuse, Louisville, NC State, Boston Coll-ot, Miami (FL), Notre Dame, Florida State, Virginia Tech, Clemson.

Purdue (SU: 2-4, ATS: 1-5, O/U: 2-3-1)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Northwestern, Minnesota, Rutgers, Nebraska, Indiana, Rice, Penn State, Middle Tenn-2ot, Southern Miss, UTSA, Louisiana Tech, North Texas, UTEP, Marshall, UAB.

Rutgers (SU: 3-5, ATS: 5-3, O/U: 5-3)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Michigan St, Indiana, Ohio State, Illinois, Michigan-3ot, Penn State, Maryland-ot, Nebraska, San Diego State, UNLV, Utah State, San Jose State, Hawaii, Nevada, Colorado State, BYU.

San Diego State (SU: 4-4, ATS: 5-3, O/U: 3-5)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include UNLV, Utah State, San Jose State, Hawaii, Nevada, Colorado State, BYU, Air Force, New Mexico, San Diego St, UNLV, Fresno State, Boise State, Hawaii, Nevada, Boise State.

SMU (SU: 7-3, ATS: 5-5, O/U: 6-4)

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Line, Score, ATS, O/U. Rows include Texas State, North Texas, Stephen F. Austin, Memphis, Tulane-ot, Cincinnati, Navy, Temple, Tulsa, East Carolina, Houston, UTSA.

