POWERS' PICKS

$15

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Bowl Bets 62% Last Year and 70% This Year So Far!!!
Bowl Forecasts Start on Pg 3, Week 17 NFL Best Bets Pg 5

Happy Holidays From BP Sports!!!
We would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all our loyal readers and customers. Without your support this season of BP Sports could not have been possible and we look forward to only getting bigger and better in future years. We wish you nothing but the best for this holiday season personally, professionally and spiritually!
Have a Healthy, Happy and Wealthy New Year!!!

College Bowl Issues Special Note:

Please be aware that there will be no single bowl issue covering all 39 bowl games. This week's issue will cover the bowl games played from December 28-January 1 (17 Bowls). Then the final bowl issue (sent Jan. 1) will cover the bowl games played from January 2-6 (5 bowls).

Welcome to the 5th bowl edition of Powers' Picks. It is certainly a fun time of year to handicap games as you can find legit value in bowl games as long as you know what to look for. Like always, we don't characterize ourselves as strictly technical or situational handicappers. However, some of the things we look for in handicapping the bowl games are motivation factors. Is one team disappointed to be playing in this bowl (example: USC in the Sun Bowl a couple years ago) or is this team really excited to be playing in the bowl.

You also have to factor in the large schedule disparities in the games involving Power 5 conference teams against Group of 5 teams as many times a 6-6 SU Power 5 conference school is far superior to a 9-3/10-2 SU Group of 5 conference school. However, the Power 5 team played a much tougher schedule which skews their season stats, but also gives you value this time of year.

Another thing to factor in when making your bowl selections is the travel distance to the bowl site for each school. While it doesn't necessarily affect the coaches and players so much, it does influence the fans as team's playing closer to home are likely to have the added crowd edge in what is supposed to be a neutral atmosphere.

Finally, you have to pay attention to the coaching situation. Not only are you dealing with interim coaches and a lot of coaching turnover, you also have to analyze how certain coaches do in bowl games. Some coaches are terrific regular season coaches but struggle in the bowl games for whatever reason.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Powers' Picks and below are some answers to any possible questions you may have regarding this issue as it is different than the regular season editions.

Bowl FAQ's
Why are you not doing one single bowl issue that covers all 39 games?

First, there are double the amount of bowl games as there were in the 1980's and 1990's and instead of all of them being played in one week (Christmas to New Year's Day), the bowls are spread out over the course of three weeks. Therefore, we're releasing our bowl picks in three separate issues. Those releases will only cover those particular bowl games being played that week (see above). Having later, more up-to-date information should result in more accurate results. We firmly believe you need to have later information in today's day and age!

I am involved in several bowls pools (both straight up and ATS) and the picks are due later this week for all 39 bowl games. What do I do and how do I get all your picks in advance for every bowl game?

Check out page 3 where we have all of our early ATS picks and also straight up bowl confidence contest picks. Three years ago we finished in the Top 1,000 nationwide out of nearly a million entries in ESPN's Bowl Mania contest. Keep in mind, due to late injury news, coaching news and weather forecasts, our early picks on sides and totals could be subject to change, but you will at least get an idea of where we're leaning early in the process.

How do I play your star-rated picks in the bowl issue(s)?

First, we will admit that most of the 1-star plays would not be included in a regular season issue. However, most of you will want action on every single bowl game for a variety of reasons and that is why we put a star-rated pick on every bowl game whether it is the side or the total. If you are someone that only likes to take part in a few games each week, then we would recommend you only play the 3-star and 4-star picks as they are clearly the strongest. If you are someone that likes to play 5-6 games a week, then the 2-stars are certainly worth your while.

Basically a 1-star rating during these bowl issues would be a lean **(these have gone 53-43-1 the last 4 years in bowl season so don't just overlook them)**. A 2-star rating on a bowl is a strong lean while a 3-star or 4-star rating is your typical top star-rated play that you would see weekly in the regular season. Please note that the Powers' Pack selections are in rotation order.

2019 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 Newsletter	W	L	T	%	Net	NFL Newsletter	W	L	T	%	Net	College/NFL Combined Newsletter	W	L	T	%	Net
Sports Reporter	30	23	1	56.60%	7	Night Owl	11	5	0	68.75%	6	Sports Reporter	47	40	1	54.02%	7
Power Sweep	28	29	0	49.12%	-1	Gold Sheet	28	19	1	59.57%	9	Night Owl	32	28	1	53.33%	4
Playbook	19	20	3	48.72%	-1	**Powers' Picks**	**27**	**19**	**2**	**58.70%**	**8**	Power Plays	24	23	0	51.06%	1
Power Plays	15	16	0	48.39%	-1	Power Plays	9	7	0	56.25%	2	Gold Sheet	54	52	1	50.94%	2
Night Owl	21	23	1	47.73%	-2	Pointwise	26	21	1	55.32%	5	**Powers' Picks**	**58**	**56**	**5**	**50.88%**	**2**
Winning Points	41	45	0	47.67%	-4	Sports Reporter	17	17	0	50.00%	0	Pointwise	65	67	3	49.24%	-2
Pointwise	39	46	2	45.88%	-7	Winning Points	30	32	2	48.39%	-2	Winning Points	71	77	2	47.97%	-6
Powers' Picks	**31**	**37**	**3**	**45.59%**	**-6**	Power Sweep	13	17	2	43.33%	-4	Power Sweep	41	46	2	47.13%	-5
Gold Sheet	26	33	0	44.07%	-7	Playbook	19	25	1	43.18%	-6	Playbook	38	45	4	45.78%	-7
Combined	**250**	**272**	**10**	**47.89%**	**-22**	**Combined**	**180**	**162**	**9**	**52.63%**	**18**	**Combined**	**430**	**434**	**19**	**49.77%**	**-4**

CFB & NFL Schedules with Lines Wk 18 Dec 28-Jan 1

CFB Bowls Saturday, Dec 28th	Line	BP			All Times Eastern
237 IOWA ST *(12:00 p.m. Camping World Bowl ABC)*	54.5	55			
238 NOTRE DAME	-3.5	-1			
239 MEMPHIS *(12:00 p.m. Cotton Bowl ESPN)*	60.5	60			
240 PENN ST	-7	-10			
241 OKLAHOMA *(4:00 p.m. Peach Bowl ESPN)*	76	72			
242 LSU	-13.5	-12			
243 CLEMSON *(8:00 p.m. Camellia Bowl ESPN)*	-2	-1			
244 OHIO ST	63.5	61			

NFL Sunday, December 29th	Line	BP			All Times Eastern
101 TENNESSEE *(4:25 p.m. CBS)*	-3.5	-4			
102 HOUSTON	45.5	44			
103 CLEVELAND *(4:05 p.m. FOX)*	-3	45			
104 CINCINNATI	44.5	-1			
105 CHICAGO *(1:00 p.m. FOX)*	37	37			
106 MINNESOTA	-1	-3			
107 INDIANAPOLIS *(4:25 p.m. CBS)*	-3.5	-5			
108 JACKSONVILLE	43	43			
109 ATLANTA *(1:00 p.m. FOX)*	48	-2			
110 TAMPA BAY	PK	50			
111 WASHINGTON *(4:25 p.m. FOX)*	44.5	44			
112 DALLAS	-11	-10			
113 NEW ORLEANS *(1:00 p.m. FOX)*	-13	-14			
114 CAROLINA	46	46			
115 PHILADELPHIA *(4:25 p.m. FOX)*	-4.5	-2			
116 N.Y. GIANTS	45.5	46			
117 PITTSBURGH *(4:25 p.m. CBS)*	-2	35			
118 BALTIMORE	38	-1			
119 N.Y. JETS *(1:00 p.m. CBS)*	36.5	37			
120 BUFFALO	-1.5	-1			
121 MIAMI *(1:00 p.m. CBS)*	45	41			
122 NEW ENGLAND	-15.5	-15			
123 GREEN BAY *(1:00 p.m. FOX)*	-12.5	-13			
124 DETROIT	43	41			
125 L.A. CHARGERS *(1:00 p.m. CBS)*	45	44			
126 KANSAS CITY	-8.5	-10			
127 ARIZONA *(4:25 p.m. FOX)*	NL	48			
128 L.A. RAMS	NL	-8			
129 SAN FRANCISCO *(8:20 p.m. NBC)*	-3	-1			
130 SEATTLE	47	47			
131 OAKLAND *(4:25 p.m. CBS)*	41	41			
132 DENVER	-3.5	-1			

CFB Bowls Monday, Dec 30th	Line	BP			All Times Eastern
245 WESTERN MICHIGAN *(12:30 p.m. First Responder Bowl ESPN)*	54	53			
246 WKU	-3.5	-1			
249 ILLINOIS *(4:00 p.m. Redbox Bowl FOX)*	43	40			
250 CALIFORNIA	-6.5	-6			
251 VIRGINIA *(8:00 p.m. Orange Bowl ESPN)*	54.5	57			
252 FLORIDA	-14.5	-15			
289 MISSISSIPPI ST *(4:00 p.m. Music City Bowl ESPN)*	-4	-4			
290 LOUISVILLE	63.5	62			

CFB Bowls Tuesday, Dec 31st	Line	BP		All Times Eastern
255 FLORIDA ST *(2:00 p.m. Sun Bowl CBS)*	54	51		
256 ARIZONA ST	-4.5	-3		
257 KANSAS ST *(3:45 p.m. Liberty Bowl ESPN)*	52	-1		
258 NAVY	-2.5	53		
259 GEORGIA ST *(4:30 p.m. Arizona Bowl CBS College)*	48.5	47		
260 WYOMING	-7	-9		
261 TEXAS *(7:30 p.m. Alamo Bowl ESPN)*	55	56		
262 UTAH	-7	-4		
291 KENTUCKY *(12:00 p.m. Belk Bowl ESPN)*	46.5	48		
292 VIRGINIA TECH	-2.5	-4		

CFB Bowls Wednesday, Jan 1st	Line	BP		All Times Eastern
263 MICHIGAN *(1:00 p.m. Citrus Bowl ABC)*	58.5	60		
264 ALABAMA	-7	-8		
265 MINNESOTA *(1:00 p.m. Outback Bowl ESPN)*	53	52		
266 AUBURN	-7	-10		
267 WISCONSIN *(5:00 p.m. Rose Bowl ESPN)*	-2.5	-1		
268 OREGON	51.5	51		
269 BAYLOR *(8:45 p.m. Sugar Bowl ESPN)*	41.5	41		
270 GEORGIA	-6	-7		

Head Coach vs Head Coach Bowl Records
2nd 17 Bowl Games (December 28-January 1)

Coach	SU	ATS	Fav	Dog
Matt Campbell, Iowa State	3-2	3-2	1-1	2-1
Brian Kelly, Notre Dame	6-5	3-8	0-4	3-4
Ryan Silverfield, Memphis	-	-	-	-
James Franklin, Penn State	4-4	5-3	3-2	2-1
Lincoln Riley, Oklahoma	0-2	1-1	-	1-1
Ed Orgeron, LSU	2-1	2-1	2-1	-
Dabo Swinney, Clemson	9-5	10-4	2-3	8-1
Ryan Day, Ohio State	-	-	-	-
Tim Lester, Western Michigan	0-1	0-1	-	0-1
Tyson Helton, Western Kentucky	-	-	-	-
Lovie Smith, Illinois	-	-	-	-
Justin Wilcox, California	0-1	0-1	-	0-1
Bronco Mendenhall, Virginia	7-6	7-6	3-1	4-5
Dan Mullen, Florida	6-2	4-4	3-4	1-0
Joe Moorhead, Mississippi St	0-1	0-1	0-1	-
Scott Satterfield, Louisville	3-0	2-1	1-1	1-0
Odell Haggins, Florida State (interim)	1-0	1-0	1-0	-
Herm Edwards, Arizona State	0-1	0-1	-	0-1
Chris Klieman, Kansas State	-	-	-	-
Ken Niumatalolo, Navy	5-5	7-3	3-0	4-3
Shawn Elliott, Georgia State	1-0	1-0	-	1-0
Craig Bohl, Wyoming	1-1	2-0	1-0	1-0
Tom Herman, Texas	3-0	3-0	-	3-0
Kyle Whittingham, Utah	10-2	8-4	4-3	4-1
Mark Stoops, Kentucky	1-2	2-1	-	2-1
Justin Fuente, Virginia Tech	2-2	3-1	2-0	1-1
Jim Harbaugh, Michigan	2-4	3-3	2-3	1-0
Nick Saban, Alabama	14-10	11-13	10-10	1-3
PJ Fleck, Minnesota	2-2	2-1-1	-	1-1-1
Gus Malzahn, Auburn	2-4	3-3	2-2	1-0
Paul Chryst, Wisconsin	5-1	5-1	2-0	2-1
Mario Cristobal, Oregon	2-2	1-3	0-3	1-0
Matt Rhule, Baylor	1-1	1-1	0-1	1-0
Kirby Smart, Georgia	2-2	3-1	1-1	2-0

Brad Powers Early ATS Picks on All 39 Bowls
Late injury, suspension, weather and coaching reports could have us leaning with another team especially with the late December/early January bowls.

Bowl Game	Matchup	Early ATS Pick
Bahamas Bowl	Buffalo vs Charlotte	Buffalo (-)-WIN
Frisco Bowl	Kent St vs Utah St	Kent (+)-WIN
New Mexico Bowl	Central Michigan vs San Diego St	San Diego St (-)-WIN
Cure Bowl	Liberty vs Georgia Southern	Liberty (+)-WIN
Boca Raton Bowl	SMU vs Florida Atlantic	SMU (-)-LOSS
Camellia Bowl	FIU vs Arkansas St	FIU (+)-LOSS
Las Vegas Bowl	Washington vs Boise St	Washington (-)-WIN
New Orleans Bowl	UAB vs Appalachian St	UAB (+)-WIN
Gasparilla Bowl	Marshall vs UCF	Marshall (+)-LOSS
Hawaii Bowl	BYU vs Hawaii	Hawaii (+)-WIN
Independence Bowl	Miami, FL vs Louisiana Tech	Louisiana Tech (+)
Quick Lane Bowl	Pittsburgh vs Eastern Michigan	Eastern Michigan (+)
Military Bowl	North Carolina vs Temple	North Carolina (-)
Pinstripe Bowl	Michigan St vs Wake Forest	Wake Forest (+)
Texas Bowl	Oklahoma St vs Texas A&M	Oklahoma St (+)
Holiday Bowl	USC vs Iowa	Iowa (-)
Cheez-It Bowl	Washington St vs Air Force	Washington St (+)
Camping World Bowl	Iowa St vs Notre Dame	Iowa St (+)
Cotton Bowl	Memphis vs Penn St	Penn St (-)
Peach Bowl	Oklahoma vs LSU	Oklahoma (+)
Fiesta Bowl	Clemson vs Ohio St	Ohio St (+)
First Responder Bowl	Western Michigan vs WKU	Western Michigan (+)
Redbox Bowl	Illinois vs California	California (-)
Orange Bowl	Virginia vs Florida	Florida (-)
Music City Bowl	Mississippi St vs Louisville	Mississippi St (-)
Sun Bowl	Florida St vs Arizona St	Florida St (+)
Liberty Bowl	Kansas St vs Navy	Kansas St (+)
Arizona Bowl	Georgia St vs Wyoming	Wyoming (-)
Alamo Bowl	Texas vs Utah	Texas (+)
Belk Bowl	Kentucky vs Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech (-)
Citrus Bowl	Michigan vs Alabama	Alabama (-)
Outback Bowl	Minnesota vs Auburn	Auburn (-)
Rose Bowl	Wisconsin vs Oregon	Oregon (+)
Sugar Bowl	Baylor vs Georgia	Baylor (+)
Birmingham Bowl	Boston College vs Cincinnati	Cincinnati (-)
Gator Bowl	Tennessee vs Indiana	Tennessee (-)
Potato Bowl	Ohio vs Nevada	Ohio (-)
Armed Forces Bowl	Tulane vs Southern Miss	Tulane (-)
Lending Tree Bowl	Miami, Oh vs UL-Lafayette	Miami, Oh (+)

Brad Powers Bowl Confidence Contest Picks
3 Years Ago Finished No. 989 (100% percentile) out of nearly a million entries in ESPN's Bowl Mania!!! (41 most confident straight up, 1 least confident)

Bowl Game	Matchup	SU Winner	Pts	W/L
Orange Bowl	Virginia vs Florida	Florida	41	
Gasparilla Bowl	Marshall vs UCF	UCF	40	W
New Orleans Bowl	UAB vs Appalachian St	Appalachian St	39	W
Lending Tree Bowl	Miami, Oh vs UL-Lafayette	UL-Lafayette	38	
Peach Bowl	Oklahoma vs LSU	LSU	37	
Arizona Bowl	Georgia St vs Wyoming	Wyoming	36	
Quick Lane Bowl	Pittsburgh vs Eastern Mich	Pittsburgh	35	
Birmingham Bowl	Boston College vs Cincinnati	Cincinnati	34	
Outback Bowl	Minnesota vs Auburn	Auburn	33	
Potato Bowl	Ohio vs Nevada	Ohio	32	
Citrus Bowl	Michigan vs Alabama	Alabama	31	
Armed Forces Bowl	Tulane vs Southern Miss	Tulane	30	
Cotton Bowl	Memphis vs Penn St	Penn St	29	
Redbox Bowl	Illinois vs California	California	28	
Bahamas Bowl	Buffalo vs Charlotte	Buffalo	27	W
Military Bowl	North Carolina vs Temple	North Carolina	26	
Texas Bowl	Oklahoma St vs Texas A&M	Texas A&M	25	
Sugar Bowl	Baylor vs Georgia	Georgia	24	
New Mexico Bowl	Central Mich vs San Diego St	San Diego St	23	W
Sun Bowl	Florida St vs Arizona St	Arizona St	22	
Las Vegas Bowl	Washington vs Boise St	Washington	21	W
Boca Raton Bowl	SMU vs Florida Atlantic	SMU	20	L
Alamo Bowl	Texas vs Utah	Utah	19	
Frisco Bowl	Kent St vs Utah St	Utah St	18	L
Independence Bowl	Miami, FL vs Louisiana Tech	Miami, FL	17	
Music City Bowl	Mississippi St vs Louisville	Mississippi St	16	
Cure Bowl	Liberty vs Georgia Southern	Ga Southern	15	L
Pinstripe Bowl	Michigan St vs Wake Forest	Michigan St	14	
Belk Bowl	Kentucky vs Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	13	
Camping World Bowl	Iowa St vs Notre Dame	Notre Dame	12	
Gator Bowl	Tennessee vs Indiana	Tennessee	11	
Fiesta Bowl	Clemson vs Ohio St	Clemson	10	
First Responder Bowl	Western Michigan vs WKU	WKU	9	
Rose Bowl	Wisconsin vs Oregon	Wisconsin	8	
Holiday Bowl	USC vs Iowa	Iowa	7	
Liberty Bowl	Kansas St vs Navy	Kansas St	6	
Camellia Bowl	FIU vs Arkansas St	FIU	5	L
National Champ	Clemson vs LSU	Clemson	4	
Hawaii Bowl	BYU vs Hawaii	Hawaii	3	W
Celebration Bowl	NC A&T vs Alcorn St	NC A&T	2	W
Cheez-It Bowl	Washington St vs Air Force	Air Force	1	

Tie-Breaker: Total Points in National Championship Game: 61

THE POWERS' PACK

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

2★ **Iowa St (+3.5) over Notre Dame (Dec. 28)**
2★ **Penn St (-7) over Memphis (Dec. 28)**
1★ **Oklahoma (+13.5) over Lsu (Dec. 28)**
1★ **Ohio St (+2) over Clemson (Dec. 28)**
2★ **Western Michigan (+3.5) over Wku (Dec. 30)**
1★ **Illinois/California UNDER 43 (Dec. 30)**
1★ **Virginia/Florida OVER 54.5 (Dec. 30)**
1★ **Mississippi St/Louisville UNDER 63.5 (Dec. 30)**
1★ **Florida St (+4.5) over Arizona St (Dec. 31)**
2★ **Kansas St (+2.5) over Navy (Dec. 31)**
1★ **Wyoming (-7) over Georgia St (Dec. 31)**
2★ **Texas (+7) over Utah (Dec. 31)**
1★ **Virginia Tech (-2.5) over Kentucky (Dec. 31)**
1★ **Michigan/Alabama OVER 58.5 (Jan. 1)**
3★ **Auburn (-7) over Minnesota (Jan. 1)**
1★ **Oregon (+2.5) over Wisconsin (Jan. 1)**
1★ **Georgia (-6) over Baylor (Jan. 1)**

Upcoming Bowls Games That Were Covered in Last Week's Issue

Thursday, December 26th
1★ Louisiana Tech (+6) over Miami, FL. Miami, FL 28-23.
1★ Eastern Michigan (+11) over Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh 30-20.
Friday, December 27th
3★ North Carolina (-4.5) over Temple. North Carolina 31-24.
1★ Wake Forest (+4.5) over Michigan St. Michigan St 26-23.
1★ Oklahoma St (+7) over Texas A&M. Texas A&M 30-24
1★ Usc/Iowa OVER 52. Iowa 28-26
2★ Washington St/Air Force OVER 67. Air Force 35-34.

Games in Rotation Order   *HOME TEAM IN CAPS*
Saturday, December 28th
Camping World Bowl in Orlando, FL
2★ **Iowa St (+3.5). † Notre Dame 28 Iowa St 27.** Statistically the teams are close as ND was +1.6 yards per play margin while Iowa St was +1.4. The value comes with the fact Iowa St played a tougher schedule (No. 8 vs No. 40 in Sagarin's SOS) and Iowa St lost 4 games by a combined 15 points this year. ND did fire their OC Chip Long after the regular season and it's still unclear on who will be calling plays. Finally, ND head coach Brian Kelly is not a good bowl coach at 3-8 ATS including 0-4 ATS as a favorite.

Cotton Bowl in Arlington, TX
2★ **Penn St (-7). † Penn St 35 Memphis 25.** Memphis will have Ryan Silverfield (OL coach here this year) at head coach as he got the permanent job after Mike Norvell left for Florida St after the regular season. Norvell also took DC Adam Fuller with him. No one on the staff has called plays. On the other side, Penn St lost OC Ricky Rahne who became the Old Dominion head coach. Penn St QB Sean Clifford is expected to start here after he missed the regular season finale vs Rutgers. This will be the best defense Memphis has faced this season and in their other game against a Power 5 opponent, they only managed 15 points vs Ole Miss in the opener.

CFB Semi-final Peach Bowl in Atlanta, GA
1★ **Oklahoma (+13.5). † Lsu 42 Oklahoma 30.** A lot of moving variables here with recent suspensions and injuries. OU has lost starting DE Ronnie Perkins and S Delarrin Turner-Yell among others. Perkins is their best pass rusher with 13.5 TFL's and 6 sacks while Turner-Yell had 75 tackles (2nd most on team). On the other side, LSU starting RB Clyde Edwards Helaire is dealing with a hamstring injury and is questionable here. Helaire had 1,290 rushing yards and 16 TD's, but was also effective out of the back-field with 50 catches! We feel OU has been disrespected big time by the national media and note they're always dangerous to get the back-door (ask Bama last year who couldn't cover vs OU despite leading 28-0 early). LSU's defense did struggle vs mobile QB's in the Texas and Ole Miss games and OU QB Jalen Hurts has 50 total TD's!

CFB Semi-final Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, AZ
1★ **Ohio St (+2). † Clemson 31 Ohio St 30.** These two are No. 1 and No. 2 in ppg margin, ypg margin and ypp margin. The narrative is that Clemson has been crushing teams more than anyone in the country. However, the Buckeyes have a higher scoring margin despite playing a tougher schedule! Ohio State became the first team to go 10-0 in a major conference! Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence in his last 6 games is completing 76-percent of his passes with 20 TD's and 0 INT's. Head coach Dabo

Swinney in the post-season since 2012 is 8-2 SU (+13 ppg) and 9-1 ATS (+15 ppg). This is a really tough but we're backing the Buckeyes here who are 15-2 ATS as an underdog dating back to 2009. Ohio St has actually won 7 straight games outright in the underdog role. To the wire.

Monday, December 30th
First Responder Bowl in Dallas, TX
2★ **Western Michigan (+3.5). † Western Kentucky 27 Western Michigan 26.** Western Michigan was the superior team statistically this year as they were better in ppg margin, ypg margin and yards per play margin despite playing a slightly tougher schedule. On top of that, CUSA looks to be an overrated conference with a 1-4 SU bowl record so far. Our power ratings are also strong on this one (see below).

Redbox Bowl in Santa Clara, CA
1★ **UNDER 43. † California 23 Illinois 17.** We're not a fan of either team this season as far as value goes. It is worth noting that Cal did go 6-0 SU when QB Chase Garbers started and finished a game this season. On the other side, Illinois was -90 ypg and -0.7 yards per play this season, the worst combo of any bowl team. Still, the Illini should be fired up playing in their first bowl game in 8 years. On Tuesday, Cal announced that 4 players will be out for the bowl including 3 starters. That keeps us off Cal. We'll go with the UNDER and note Cal's 10-7 bowl score last year.

Orange Bowl in Miami, FL
1★ **OVER 54.5. † Florida 36 Virginia 21.** Huge match-up edge to Florida here as the Gators are No. 5 in the country with 46 sacks. Meanwhile, UVA's offensive line allowed 38 sacks, which ranked No. 120 in the country. UF QB Kyle Trask did a great job replacing the injured Feleipe Franks as Trask had a 24-to-6 TD-to-INT ratio. On the other side, UVA's offense rests entirely on QB Bryce Perkins who threw for 3,207 yards and also led the team in rushing with 745 yards. UVA enters this one with 5 straight OVERS as their defense has been compromised due to injury.

Music City Bowl in Nashville, TN
1★ **UNDER 63.5. † Mississippi St 33 Louisville 29.** Match-up edge here for a Miss St offense averaging 227 rush ypg (5.5 ypc) against a Louisville defense allowing 211 rush ypg (5.5 ypc) and were just run over by Kentucky in the finale (517 yards and 13 yards per carry)! Their ability to move the chains and work the clock should lead to a lower scoring game especially considering Louisville is also run heavy (65/35 run/pass mix).

Tuesday, December 31st
Sun Bowl in El Paso, TX
1★ **Florida St (+4.5). † Arizona St 27 Florida St 24.** Arguably 3 of the top 4 offensive players will sit this game out in Arizona St RB Eno Benjamin (1,083 yards), Arizona St WR Brandon Aiyuk (1,192 yards) and Florida St RB Cam Akers (1,133 yards, 14 TD's). FSU interim coach Odell Haggins will be on the staff next year so expect Mike Norvell to have some input whether he admits to it or not. On the other side, Arizona St head coach Herm Edwards will be without both his O.C. who he fired and his D.C. Danny Gonzalez who took the New Mexico head coaching job.

Liberty Bowl in Memphis, TN
2★ **Kansas St (+2.5). † Kansas St 27 Navy 26.** Even though we've upgraded Navy this year more than any other team (+16 points since the start of the season), our power ratings are strong on the Wildcats here. Kansas St's rush defense has been hit or miss this season (4 games allowing 200-plus and 4 games allowing 85 or less) but we think with a full month to prep for the option, new head coach Chris Klieman will develop a solid plan. Note Kansas St has the best 3rd Down defense in the country allowing just 26% conversions so we think they can get off the field.

Arizona Bowl in Tucson, AZ
1★ **Wyoming (-7). † Wyoming 28 Georgia St 19.** The value here comes with an injury to Georgia St QB Dan Ellington who has been playing on a torn ACL. In the

first 9 games of the season, he averaged 67 rush ypg. However, in the last 3 games he has a total of MINUS-5 rush yards! Therefore, we feel the Georgia St offense has been compromised. Also statistically Wyoming was +0.3 in yards play margin vs -0.8 for Georgia St despite facing a tougher schedule.

Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, TX
2★ **Texas (+7). † Utah 30 Texas 26.** How motivated is Utah here after being one win away from either the CFB Playoffs or their first ever Rose Bowl berth? We certainly think it's a question mark. Yes, head coach Kyle Whittingham is great in bowl games (10-2 SU) but Texas head coach Tom Herman is 3-0 ATS in bowl games winning all 3 outright as an underdog. We think the Horns have a clear match-up edge with their WR's Devin Duvernay and Collin Johnson vs a Utah defense playing without key DB's Jaylon Johnson and Julian Blackmon.

Belk Bowl in Charlotte, NC
1★ **Virginia Tech (-2.5). † Virgina Tech 26 Kentucky 22.** Long-time Virginia Tech D.C. Bud Foster will be coaching in his final game here. He has extra time to prep for UK's run heavy offense that averaged more than 350 rush ypg in their final 7 games with converted WR Lynn Bowden at QB. VT has also been playing their best ball of the season going 6-1 SU with Hendon Hooker at QB.

Wednesday, January 1st
Citrus Bowl in Orlando, FL
1★ **OVER 58.5. † Alabama 34 Michigan 26.** This is the first time Alabama will not be participating in the CFB Playoff and we've seen them before struggle in bowl games when motivation was a question (See Sugar Bowl outright losses to Utah and Oklahoma as big favorites). A couple of key defensive players (LB Terrell Lewis and CB Trevon Diggs) have decided to sit this game out for the Tide but as of press time, all of their dynamic weapons on offense will play (sans QB Tagovailoa who was KO'd in the Miss St game). We think the Michigan defense will struggle with Bama's speed at WR (much like we've seen in the Ohio St games the last two years). However, we also expect Michigan's offense to have success vs Bama's D.

Outback Bowl in Tampa, FL
3★ **Auburn (-7). † Auburn 31 Minnesota 21.** When it comes to comparing strength of schedules for Power 5 teams, you hardly ever get a bigger disparity than what we have in this game as Auburn played the 2nd toughest schedule according to Jeff Sagarin while Minnesota played the 61st toughest. When you add in the fact key Auburn DL Derrick Brown will play here and the added 15 practices should help true frosh qB Bo Nix. We just think there's a huge talent disparity here and note Auburn's annihilation of Big Ten Purdue in last year's bowl game.

Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA
1★ **Oregon (+2.5). † Wisconsin 26 Oregon 25.** We came away very impressed in Oregon in physical games vs Auburn and Utah this season. The Ducks were covering at every point in the Auburn game until the final seconds and of course dominated the Utes in the Pac-12 title game. They're much more capable at the point of attack to handle Wisconsin's power rush than any recent Oregon teams. It is fading Wisconsin head coach Paul Chryst who is one of the more underrated coaches in the country (5-1 SU/ATS in bowl games).

Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, LA
1★ **Georgia (-6) † Georgia 24 Baylor 17.** We think the market is getting "too cute" here with Georgia now laying under a TD. Sure, there are motivation concerns (see last year's Sugar Bowl vs Texas). Sure, there are several players sitting out including 3 offensive lineman. Still, there is a sizable talent edge here for the Dogs. On top of that, Baylor is getting too much credit for close losses to Oklahoma this year. Yes, the scoreboard was close but the Bears were out-gained by 218 yards in the first meeting and a 168 yards in the second meeting.

Week 18 Computer Projected Lines for Every CFB Game

For the past couple of seasons we have posted computer projected lines at pregame.com. **Games where there was of difference of more than 3 points saw our computer lines actually beat the Vegas line at a 224-176-10 (56%) clip the last three years.** That's pretty solid and actually better than our own handicapping in some seasons. **Last week's plays went 0-1 and now the record for this year is 76-73-2.** 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 3 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 Kansas St +2.5. 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.

Game	Line	Comp	Diff
237 Iowa St			
238 Notre Dame	-3.5	-4.9	-1.4
239 Memphis			
240 Penn St	-7	-9.1	-2.1
241 Oklahoma			
242 LSU	-13.5	-12.8	+0.7
243 Clemson			
244 Ohio St	+2	+0.9	+1.1
245 Western Michigan			
246 WKU	-3.5	+1.3	+4.8
249 Illinois			
250 California	-6.5	-4.2	+2.3
251 Virginia			
252 Florida	-14.5	-14.2	+0.3
281 Mississippi St			
282 Louisville	+4	+1.9	+2.1
255 Florida St			
256 Arizona St	-4.5	-1.1	+3.4

Game	Line	Comp	Diff
257 Kansas St			
257 Navy	-2.5	+0.8	+3.3
259 Georgia St			
260 Wyoming	-7	-9.2	-2.2
261 Texas			
262 Utah	-7	-9.5	-2.5
285 Kentucky			
286 Virginia Tech	-2.5	-3.0	-0.5
263 Michigan			
264 Alabama	-7	-4.5	+2.5
265 Minnesota			
266 Auburn	-7	-6.9	+0.1
267 Wisconsin			
268 Oregon	+2.5	+0.3	+2.2
269 Baylor			
270 Georgia	-6	-7.6	-1.6

Top 8 CFB ATS Trends for Week 18

1. Underdogs in bowl games are on a 67-52-6 ATS 56% run the last 4 years.

2. Since 1980, the SEC has the best ATS mark in bowl games at 54.7%.

3. Since 2005, the MAC is just 20-52 SU (-7.7 ppg) and 24-44-4 ATS (-4.7 ppg, 35%).

4. Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly is not a good bowl coach at 3-8 ATS including 0-4 ATS as a favorite. The Irish are 3.5-point favorites vs Iowa St.

5. The Buckeyes are on a 15-2 ATS run as an underdog dating back to 2009. Ohio St has actually won 7 straight games outright in the dog role. Ohio St is a 2-point underdog vs Clemson.

6. Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney in the post-season since 2012 is 8-2 SU (+13 ppg) and 9-1 ATS (+15 ppg).

7. Pac-12 teams are just 4-17-1 ATS (-5.7 ppg) in bowl games the last 4 years.

8. Baylor is on a 9-0 ATS (+10 ppg) run as an underdog. The Bears are +6 vs Georgia.

Games in Rotation Order   *HOME TEAM IN CAPS*
Sunday, December 29th

Tennessee 24 HOUSTON 20. Obviously, we lost on these pages last week with Tennessee who we should note were down 3 and driving when a late fumble led to the Saints clinching TD. If Tennessee wins, they're in the playoffs. There's been about about a 6.5-point adjustment here for playoff need (Ten was -3 at home two weeks ago vs HOU). Despite likely being the AFC's No. 4 seed, Texans' HC Bill O'Brien told reporters on a conference call on Monday that he had no plans to rest players in Sunday's regular-season finale against the Titans and "we are playing to win". We'll see if that holds true with KC playing in the earlier time slot.

2★ CINCINNATI 23 Cleveland 22. After last week's loss to Baltimore, that's now 12 straight losing seasons and 17 straight years of missing the playoffs for the Browns. Remember, Cincinnati had 27-17 first down and 451-333 yard edges in the first meeting (misleading final). This is only 4th time since 1999, the Browns are a division road favorite. Cincy already has the No. 1 draft pick locked up and QB Andy Dalton is playing for a contract with another team next year. We lean with the Bengals.

MINNESOTA 20 Chicago 17. The Bears offense looks like it has quit on QB Trubisky. On the other side, the Vikings offense was just as inept vs the Packers managing only 7 first downs in an embarrassing loser on these pages. This point spread adjust 6 points after that debacle as this game no longer means anything to the Vikings who will be the No. 6 seed. We don't have much interest here.

Indianapolis 24 JACKSONVILLE 19. Jacksonville has played one good quarter (4Q vs Raiders) in their last 7 games. They are 1-6 SU (-18 ppg) and 1-7 ATS (-14 ppg). Week 17 usually has much greater variance in result than other NFL weeks because of motivation disparity. However, the Colts don't have much variance because they run the ball so much and will want to get to .500 on the season. Indy head coach Frank Reich obviously will be back next season, Jacksonville head coach Doug Marrone likely won't.

Atlanta 26 TAMPA BAY 24. The Falcons certainly didn't quit on head coach Dan Quinn as they are 5-2 SU (+9 ppg) and 5-2 ATS (+11 ppg) in their last 7 games. Meanwhile, Tampa Bay has a poor home field advantage. Since 2008, they are 32-56-4 ATS (36%, -3 ppg). Tampa QB Jameis Winston has the opportunity to become the first NFL QB in the "30/30 Club" as he has 31 TD's and 28 INT's on the season.

DALLAS 27 Washington 17. Case Keenum is an upgrade over Dwayne Haskins as the Redskins are a respectable 3-7 SU (-6 ppg)/5-5 ATS under interim coach Callahan and you can make a case that their worst performance in the last 5 games was an OT loss to the Giants last week. We think this number is too high for a Dallas team in turmoil and we also feel QB Prescott is more banged up than what the Cowboys are saying.

Updated NFL Records: Straight Up, ATS and Over/Under

Team	Straight-Up Total	Home	Away	Against The Spread Total	Home	Away	Over/Under Total	Home	Away
Arizona	5-9-1	2-5-1	3-4-0	9-5-1	4-4-0	5-1-1	8-7-0	5-3-0	3-4-0
Atlanta	6-9-0	3-5-0	3-4-0	7-8-0	4-4-0	3-4-0	6-9-0	2-6-0	4-3-0
Baltimore	13-2-0	6-1-0	7-1-0	9-5-1	3-4-0	6-1-1	8-7-0	3-4-0	5-3-0
Buffalo	10-5-0	4-3-0	6-2-0	9-5-1	3-4-0	6-1-1	4-11-0	2-5-0	2-6-0
Carolina	5-10-0	2-5-0	3-5-0	6-8-1	2-4-1	4-4-0	10-5-0	5-2-0	5-3-0
Chicago	7-8-0	4-4-0	3-4-0	4-11-0	3-5-0	1-6-0	5-10-0	2-6-0	3-4-0
Cincinnati	1-14-0	1-6-0	0-8-0	5-9-1	1-5-1	4-4-0	6-8-1	4-2-1	2-6-0
Cleveland	6-9-0	4-4-0	2-5-0	5-9-1	3-4-1	2-5-0	7-8-0	4-4-0	3-4-0
Dallas	7-8-0	4-3-0	3-5-0	8-7-0	4-3-0	4-4-0	9-6-0	4-3-0	5-3-0
Denver	6-9-0	4-3-0	2-6-0	9-6-0	5-2-0	4-4-0	7-8-0	4-3-0	3-5-0
Detroit	3-11-1	2-5-0	1-6-1	5-10-0	3-4-0	2-6-0	10-5-0	6-1-0	4-4-0
Green Bay	12-3-0	7-1-0	5-2-0	10-5-0	5-3-0	5-2-0	6-9-0	3-4-0	3-4-0
Houston	10-5-0	5-2-0	5-3-0	7-7-1	2-5-0	5-2-1	6-9-0	3-4-0	3-5-0
Indianapolis	7-8-0	5-3-0	2-5-0	7-6-2	4-4-0	3-2-2	8-7-0	5-3-0	3-4-0
Jacksonville	5-10-0	2-5-0	3-5-0	6-9-0	2-5-0	4-4-0	7-7-1	3-4-0	4-3-1
Kansas City	11-4-0	4-3-0	7-1-0	10-5-0	4-3-0	6-2-0	7-8-0	4-3-0	3-5-0
L.A. Chargers	5-10-0	2-6-0	3-4-0	4-10-1	1-6-1	3-4-0	6-9-0	2-6-0	4-3-0
L.A. Rams	8-7-0	4-3-0	4-4-0	10-5-0	4-3-0	6-2-0	6-9-0	2-5-0	4-4-0
Miami	4-11-0	3-5-0	1-6-0	8-7-0	4-4-0	4-3-0	8-7-0	5-3-0	3-4-0
Minnesota	10-5-0	6-1-0	4-4-0	8-7-0	4-3-0	4-4-0	8-7-0	3-4-0	5-3-0
New England	12-3-0	6-1-0	6-2-0	9-6-0	4-3-0	5-3-0	6-9-0	3-4-0	3-5-0
New Orleans	12-3-0	6-2-0	6-1-0	10-5-0	4-4-0	6-1-0	8-7-0	4-4-0	4-3-0
N.Y. Giants	4-11-0	2-5-0	2-6-0	7-8-0	2-5-0	5-3-0	9-6-0	3-4-0	6-2-0
N.Y. Jets	6-9-0	5-3-0	1-6-0	6-9-0	4-4-0	2-5-0	7-8-0	2-6-0	5-2-0
Oakland	7-8-0	5-3-0	2-5-0	7-8-0	4-4-0	3-4-0	7-8-0	4-4-0	3-4-0
Philadelphia	8-7-0	5-3-0	3-4-0	6-9-0	3-5-0	3-4-0	7-8-0	2-6-0	5-2-0
Pittsburgh	8-7-0	5-3-0	3-4-0	7-6-2	4-3-1	3-3-1	3-12-0	3-5-0	0-7-0
San Francisco	12-3-0	6-2-0	6-1-0	8-6-1	3-4-1	5-2-0	8-7-0	5-3-0	3-4-0
Seattle	11-4-0	4-3-0	7-1-0	7-7-1	2-5-0	5-2-1	8-7-0	4-3-0	4-4-0
Tampa Bay	7-8-0	2-5-0	5-3-0	5-8-2	0-5-2	5-3-0	11-4-0	5-2-0	6-2-0
Tennessee	8-7-0	4-4-0	4-3-0	8-7-0	4-4-0	4-3-0	9-6-0	5-3-0	4-3-0
Washington	3-12-0	1-7-0	2-5-0	6-9-0	2-6-0	4-3-0	7-8-0	5-3-0	2-5-0

New Orleans 30 CAROLINA 16. Saints need a win here and Packers/49ers losses for the No. 1 seed. Tall task as it looks like a 13-3 New Orleans team could be regulated to the No. 3 seed (a 13-3 team has been the No. 3 seed only twice prior in NFL history!). We actually think they are the best team in the NFC. Since Week 3, the Saints are 11-2 SU (+8 ppg) and 10-3 ATS (+4 ppg). On the other side, the Panthers since week 10 are 0-7 SU (-15 ppg) and 1-6 ATS (-12 ppg). Last week Will Grier had a QBR of 9 in his first start!

2★ N.Y. GIANTS (plus the points) Philadelphia 24 N.Y. GIANTS 22. Despite many in the national media already crowning the Eagles as NFC East division champs, they still need a win here or a Dallas loss to Washington to clinch. We think that's a taller ask than many are projecting. How much energy will Philly have after 3 straight close games vs division rivals? The Eagles were -9 at home 3 weeks ago vs the Giants. That means, if you flip home/away they'd be -3 here, instead you're paying a 1.5-point premium. Plus, Daniel Jones was back last week for the G-Men and proceeded to throw 5 TD passes! RB Barkley had 279 yards from scrimmage!

2★ UNDER 38 BALTIMORE 18 Pittsburgh 17. We feel this line has been adjusted too much for Baltimore resting players and Pittsburgh needing a win to get into the playoffs. The Ravens have the top seed in the AFC locked up while the Steelers need a win and a Tennessee loss to get into the playoffs. RGIII will get the start here for the Ravens and he's better than Pittsburgh QB Hodges. Pittsburgh is 11-3 to the UNDER this year. Also note that NFL totals lined 38 or lower this season are 7-3 to the UNDER.

BUFFALO 19 N.Y. Jets 18. This game doesn't mean much to the Bills who are locked into No. 5 seed and will likely play at Houston next week. Still, it looks like Josh Allen will play here for them but the question is how long? On the other side, the Jets are quietly on a 5-2 SU run. The Bills won the first meeting by 1 and we see a similar result here.

NEW ENGLAND 28 Miami 13. The Patriots need a win for the No. 2 seed in the AFC which is very critical for them this season. Note that when New England is laying 14 or more at home the last 5 years, they are 10-0 SU (+23 ppg) and 9-1 ATS (+8 ppg). Obviously, there is no such thing as tanking in the NFL and the Dolphins are proof of that. After a questionable start, Miami is 4-7 SU (-5 ppg) and 8-3 ATS in their last 11 games (+2.6 ppg). We lean with the UNDER here.

Green Bay 27 DETROIT 14. Remarkably, the Packers can clinch the No. 1 seed in the NFC with a win here and a San Francisco loss. They still get the No. 2 seed with a win regardless. The MNF performance was arguably their best of the entire season with dominating statistical edges. Keep in mind, GB came into the game -35 ypg on the season. On the other side, the Lions could be the worst team in football. In their last 10 games they are 1-9 SU (-8 ppg) and 0-9-1 ATS (-4 ppg).

KANSAS CITY 27 L.A. Chargers 17. The Chiefs need a win and a New England loss to get the No. 2 seed. The worry here is what is Kansas City's motivation if they see New England off to a big lead? In their last 5 games, the Chiefs are 5-0 SU (+17.6 ppg) and 5-0 ATS (+11 ppg) with an average score of 27-10. They've also owned this series with a 10-1 SU (+10.5 ppg) and 8-3 ATS (+7 ppg) mark in the last 11.

L.A. RAMS 28 Arizona 20. There is no line on this game as of press time with uncertainty around Arizona's QB situation. Murray was banged up and didn't finish last week's game (an outright winner on these pages). Brett Huntley is the back-up for them. On the other side, the Rams are out of the playoff hunt after their close loss to the 49ers last Saturday. How much effort do you expect out of them? We're passing for now.

San Francisco 24 SEATTLE 23. San Francisco gets the No. 1 seed with a win here, otherwise, it's the No. 5 seed. How important is that to their Super Bowl chances? If SF wins, they have a 15% chance to win the Super Bowl (according to 538). If SF loses, they have a 2% chance to win the Super Bowl! On the other side, Seattle is very banged up. They are down their top 3 RB's for the season and former RB Marshawn Lynch just signed with the team on Monday. Also last week they were missing 3 defensive starters in Safety Quandre Diggs, CB Shaquill Griffin and DE Jadeveon Clowney (check status late this week). With all that being said, Seattle has owned the 49ers head-to-head. In the last 15 meetings, the Seahawks 13-2 SU (+12 ppg) and 12-3 ATS (+6.5 ppg).

DENVER 21 Oakland 20. Hard as it is to believe, the Raiders have a path to the playoffs. Here's what would have to happen in Week 17: The Raiders need to beat the Broncos. The Ravens need to beat the Steelers. The Texans need beat the Titans and the Colts need to beat the Jaguars. If those four things happen Sunday, the Raiders make it as a wild card. Sounds difficult but there is close to a 10% chance of that happening. We're not buying all this love about Denver QB Drew Lock who has had one really good game (vs Houston). We lean with the Raiders here.