

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

THE POWERS' PACK

Best Bets are VIP only this year!

Games in Rotation Order

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Saturday, August 24th

† **Florida State 34 Georgia Tech 23.** @Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Ireland. A solid conference matchup to kick off the 2024 season across the pond. The defending ACC Champion Seminoles return just 9 starters but as usual head coach Mike Norvell did a great job in the transfer portal. DJ Uiagalelei will be the starter at QB and keep an eye on DE Marvin Jones Jr, a transfer from Georgia. FSU likes their run game this season as this should be the deepest and best OL they've had in a decade. That does not bode well for a Georgia Tech rush defense that was dead last among Power conference teams last year allowing 221 rush ypg and 5.4 yards per carry. On the negative side for FSU, their weakness on offense may be their receivers after losing their top 3 guys from a year ago. Meanwhile, GT brings back 13 starters including 8 on offense led by QB Haynes King. He is a deceptive runner with 737 rushing yards and 10 TD's last year. FSU's secondary will be among the best in the country and while they were productive last year, GT is undersized at the skill positions including RB Jamal Haynes (5-9 190), WR Malik Rutherford (5-9 170) and WR Eric Singleton (5-11 190). We like the GT coaching staff but we think they've been a little over-priced in the markets this summer. Yes, they won a bowl game last year but the Yellow Jackets got to 6-6 because of a ridiculous coaching decision by Miami head coach Mario Cristobal. If Miami takes a knee, GT is a 5-7 football team and there might not be as much excitement for them. We have not bet this game yet this summer but with the line -10 in a few shops, we lean with FSU.

Smu 41 NEVADA 16. A lot of hype for this SMU team this year as they join the ACC. The Mustangs are coming off their best season in 40 years and return 16 starters led by QB Preston Stone. SMU was dominant vs the weaker teams on their schedule last year as they finished the season No. 7 nationally in yards per play margin, No. 5 in yards per game margin and No. 6 in scoring margin. Make no mistake, Nevada is a weak team this year as they come off back-to-back 2-10 seasons. They have a new coach in Jeff Choate who we think will be a good hire in the long term but this year's team won't improve the win total much (season win total is priced at 2.5 at most shops). This line has been on the move all summer as SMU opened as low as 18.5. It got as high as 27 but we saw some buy back on Nevada on Tuesday. SMU will be without 3 players who were in their 2-deep and it also looks like backup QB Kevin Jennings will get some snaps. Still, we think SMU is too talented and too deep for Nevada to keep things close.

Montana State 34 NEW MEXICO 21. Normally, we would not include FCS write-ups in our weekly newsletter. However, these lines are widely available this week something we don't expect to be the case once the season starts (FCS lines usually get released on Friday evenings at the earliest). New Mexico made a great hire in Bronco Mendenhall. However, New Mexico only returns 2 starters on offense and are a bottom 5 team nationally in our FBS power ratings (released next week). Montana State meanwhile ranks No. 2 in our preseason FCS power ratings. The Bobcats bring back 13 starters from last year led by dual-threat QB Tommy Mellott. They will be without their starting center and starting RB but are deep at those positions. If this line holds, it will be the largest favorite role ever for an FCS team vs a FBS team. FCS teams that are small dogs (3 points or less) and favored vs FBS teams are 17-9-2 ATS (65%) the last 10 years with a cover margin of 4 points per game. FCS favorites of 4 or more are 6-1 ATS. The thought process is the market can't fully grasp a FCS team in this role so maybe you're getting a discount. We bet Montana State a few months back (posted it in the CFB preview magazine) and we'd still lean with the Bobcats at the current number.

HAWAII 49 Delaware State 9. Delaware State is a bottom 5-10 team at the FCS level and went just 1-10 last year. They played FBS Miami, Oh and Army last year and lost by a combined 119-20. While the Hornets return 14 starters and should be improved, they're taking on a Hawaii team that returns 17 starters and should

College Football Schedules Week Zero

Saturday, August 24th	Line	BP	All Times Eastern	
305 FLORIDA STATE <small>12:00 p.m. Dublin, Ireland ESPN</small>	-10.5	-11		
306 GEORGIA TECH	55.5	57		
307 SMU <small>8:00 p.m. CBSN</small>	-24.5	-25		
308 NEVADA	56	57		
901 MONTANA STATE <small>4:00 p.m. FS1</small>	-11.5	-13		
902 NEW MEXICO	54.5	55		
903 DELAWARE STATE <small>12:00 a.m.</small>	57.5	58		
904 HAWAII	-39.5	-40		

be head coach Timmy Chang's best team yet. Delaware State has had some travel issues this week as their 3-hour bus ride to the airport took too long and they missed their 10-hour flight on Tuesday. We think Hawaii can name their score here but the Warriors do have a home game vs UCLA on deck and probably won't show their full hand. Pass.

Computer Projected Lines

Saturday, Aug 27th Line Comp Diff

305 Florida State			
306 Georgia Tech	+10.5	+12.0	-1.5
307 SMU			
308 Nevada	+24.5	+25.5	-1.0
901 Montana State			
902 New Mexico	+11.5	+13.5	-2.0
903 Delaware State			
904 Hawaii	-39.5	-39.7	-0.2

Betting CFB Openers

These bets were posted in our CFB Preview magazine that was sent out 6 weeks ago. We will list all Week 1 bets in next week's issue.

\$550 (307) SMU -18.5 (Draft Kings), still lean SMU

\$525 (901) Montana State -4.5 (Fan Duel), still lean Montana St

Next week's newsletter will have write-ups on every single Week 1 FBS vs FBS game. It will also include power ratings, computer projected lines, updated injury reports and schedule logs. Week 2 will include the NFL once the season starts.

The weekly newsletter will be emailed Every Wednesday at 3pm ET.

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