

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 23rd

† **Kansas State 26 Iowa State 23.** @Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Ireland. "Farmageddon" officially opens up the 2025 CFB season. Iowa State has won four of the last five meetings between the two teams while covering all five. Both teams are among a handful of teams with Big 12 Championship aspirations. Both teams return 11 starters and both return their starting QB. Kansas State does return more production. Statistically, Kansas State was the superior team last year with a better yards per play margin (+1.3 vs +0.2) and yards per game margin (+83.4 vs +62.3). Iowa State is coming off a school-record 11-win season. The biggest worry for the Cyclones is the loss of two NFL draft picks at WR but the Wildcats have concerns in their secondary as they also lost two NFL draft picks. Both QB's have had turnover issues in the past as Iowa State QB Rocco Becht has thrown seven "Pick 6's" in his career while Kansas State QB Avery Johnson had four INT's each in losses to Arizona State and Houston. We made the game Kansas State "-3" so we don't see much value here. We must not be alone as this game has been posted for months and we haven't see hardly any movement on the side or total. Pass.

**WESTERN KENTUCKY 34 Sam Houston State 25.** Western Kentucky is 2-0 vs Sam Houston including a 31-14 win last year as a 1.5-point road underdog. Both teams are among the least experienced in CFB this year. Sam Houston returns 4 starters (0 on defense!) while WKU returns just 3 starters. Both are in the bottom 20 when it comes to returning production. However, WKU is the more proven commodity thanks to head coach Tyson Helton returning for his 7th season. He's won at least 8 games in 5 different seasons. The Hilltoppers do bring in transfer QB Maverick McIvor and have a new OC in Rick Bowie. Both were at Abilene Christian last year where the offense excelled. Meanwhile, Sam Houston has a new head coach in Phil Longo who was the OC here a decade ago. The Bearcats are coming off a 10-win season but that record was a bit fraudulent. Sam Houston was 6-0 in one-possession games and were +12 in turnovers. We've downgraded them about a TD in our power ratings and they still have not named a starting QB. A lot of love for Western Kentucky in the markets. We understood the initial move but not through "10". There's so much uncertainty with both teams. WKU brings in 44 transfers including 17 post-spring. We lean with Sam Houston if you can find +10.5 and the UNDER.

**KANSAS 33 Fresno State 18.** We're not huge fans of either team this fall. We bet Kansas UNDER 7.5 wins. They lost their all-time leading rusher and three of their top 13 all-time receivers in yardage. They also lost a pair of stud CB's that started multiple years. We really like head coach Lance Leipold but he has new coordinators and they had to hit the transfer portal hard. On the other side, we think new Fresno State head coach Matt Entz is overrated. Yes, he won two FCS National Championships at North Dakota State but that program was getting worse under his leadership and lost four games in 2023. He left to be USC's LB's coach last year and North Dakota State got better and won the National Championship. The Bulldogs will start EJ Warner (formerly of Temple/Rice) at QB and Fresno will slow the tempo, run the ball more and feature double TE sets. There might be some hidden home field edge here for Kansas as they are debuting a remodeled stadium after having to play their home games off-campus last year. Our power ratings like the Jayhawks here and that's our only Week 0 bet so far.

**HAWAII 25 Stanford 24.** These two met in the 2023 season opener with Stanford winning 37-24. (-3). We were originally going to be "buyers" of Stanford this year but head coach Troy Taylor was let go in the spring and the Cardinal lost four starters since late March including EDGE David Bailey. Interim head coach Frank Reich takes over and general manager Andrew Luck is also heavily involved. Former Oregon State QB Ben Gulbranson will get the start in somewhat of a surprise. The Cardinal have had four straight 3-9 seasons and we're now expecting more of the same. On the other side, this should be Timmy Chang's best Hawaii team

## College Football Schedules Week Zero

Saturday, August 24th	Line	BP	All Times Eastern
305 IOWA STATE <small>12:00 p.m. Dublin, Ireland ESPN</small>	49.5	49	
306 KANSAS STATE	-3	-3	
307 SAM HOUSTON ST <small>7:00 p.m. CBSN</small>	61.5	59	
308 WKU	-10	-9	
309 FRESNO ST <small>6:30 p.m. FOX</small>	50.5	51	
310 KANSAS	-12.5	-15	
311 STANFORD <small>7:30 p.m. CBS</small>	50.5	49	
312 HAWAII	-2	-1	
901 IDAHO ST <small>4:00 p.m.</small>	65.5	63	
902 UNLV	-26.5	-27	

as the Warriors return 13 starters. QB Micah Alejandro only started one game last year, but it was the regular season finale and he threw for 469 yards and 5 TD's. He is only 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds. It's bowl or bust for the Hawaii program this year. There's been two major market moves over the summer with this game. Stanford opened a 2.5-point favorite but now find themselves a 2-point underdog. Also the total opened 55.5 and now sits at 50.5. While we don't disagree with either initial move, we also didn't bet either. We're actually looking to bet Stanford but need a "+3" to show in the market for us to be involved.

**UNLV 45 Idaho State 18.** We normally don't write-up games involving FCS teams because the lines aren't up until late in the week. UNLV has a new coach and new roster this year. Dan Mullen takes over after the Rebels had arguably the best two-year run in school history under former coach Barry Odom (now at Purdue). The Rebels return only two starters total but do bring in a talented transfer portal class. That includes 26 transfers from Power 4 programs and 18 players that were 4 or 5-star recruits out of high school. They will play two QB's in Michigan transfer Alex Orji and Virginia transfer Anthony Colandrea. Idaho State is coming off a 5-7 season and returns 10 starters. They have a solid offense but one of the worst defenses in the FCS. Early money has been on the OVER and the favorite but we don't see much value.

## Computer Projected Lines

### Saturday, Aug 23rd Line Comp Diff

305 Iowa State			
306 Kansas State	-3.0	-3.0	0.0
307 Sam Houston State			
308 Western Kentucky	-10.0	-6.6	+3.4
309 Fresno State			
310 Kansas	-12.5	-16.6	-4.1
311 Stanford			
312 Hawaii	-2.0	+0.8	+2.8
901 Idaho State			
902 UNLV	-26.5	-27.2	-0.7

## Betting CFB Openers

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

\$550 Kansas -13.5 -110 (Circa)

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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