

Free Picks – January 12th Weekend

We went a perfect 2-0 last week, as our NFL playoff picks got off to a great start (Dallas covering on the road at Seattle) and the red hot Phoenix Suns Covering a 19 point spread against the Miami Heat without D-Wade. We bring you another tasty serving of free plays on NBA and NFL.

The Miami Heat head into Golden State on Friday night to take on the Warriors. The Heat lost 5 in a row (both SU and ATS) since Dwyane Wade injured his wrist early in the game in Chicago on Dec. 27. Wade returned on Sunday and they have won two. Wade is now averaging 31.8 points in his last eight games that he has played more than six minutes, and Miami has won seven of those contests. Moreover, long-awaited Shaquille O'Neal may come back to play this game. Antoine Walker and James Posey will also be available.

Golden State, on the other hand, have lost three of their last four games (0-4 ATS), allowing 116.8 points in those contests. Baron Davis had only 13 points on 4-of-14 shooting the last game against the Magic.

We're looking for the Heat to bounce back in a big way as the road dog. Miami has dominated the series of late, winning 15 of the last 19 matchups, including the last two at Oracle Arena. Golden State has been plagued by Jason Richardson's injury, and this will be a factor here, as no one on the Warriors will be able to keep up with the healthy Heat.

- Play Miami Heat, ATS.

The New England Patriots are currently listed as five-point road dogs and it's hard to pass up betting on the Patriots in the playoffs getting points. Consider these facts: the Patriots are 7-1 on the road this season. Also, the duo of Bill Belichick and Tom Brady are 11-1 and Marty Schottenheimer is 5-12 in the playoffs. Chargers QB Philip Rivers is making his first playoff start this Sunday.

MVP RB LaDainian Tomlinson looks unstoppable but the reality is that he has played just two games against run defenses that rank in the top ten - Baltimore and Pittsburgh. In those two games, he averaged only 67 yards (3.35 yds per carry). Although the Patriots lack the ideal speed and athleticism on defense, their run defense has thrived this year on solid gap control and game scheming that gets their players in the right position effectively. Tomlinson has yet to prove capable of putting forth a dominating performance all year against a solid run defense, and we feel this won't change this week against a run defense this experienced and effective.

The Chargers defense is solid but it is a defense that has some holes that could be exploited. The Patriots are one of the best teams employing the passing game in order to set up the run. The first being the development of WR Reche Caldwell (61 Rec, 760 yds) and Jabar Gaffney (8 rec, 104 yds last week) who have begun to punish defenses for looking to lock down RB's Corey Dillon and Laurence Maroney. This is a huge asset against the Chargers, as their run defense is their biggest strength. The Patriots have always been good at using the short passing game to set up the run, which is the exact game plan one would want when attacking this defense.

Siding with New England side that is playing the best football of the year due to balance of running, passing, and solid offensive line play getting points in a spot they have thrived in this season on the road.

- Play New England Patriots, ATS.

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