

Free Picks – Sunday, July 30th

We split last week's shorter-than-usual card, bringing our MLB run to 4-1 in the last five plays. This week we were unable to post plays on Friday due to an internet service outage, but luckily delaying the release of plays in a Sunday Spectacular allows us to take advantage of some marquee matchups.

Three consecutive losses to division rival Chicago has shortened the St. Louis line on this match, making it a prime time to cash with the fave as Chris Carpenter will take care of business today on the mound. He's gone on a huge tear lately, picking up three wins in his last three outings against Colorado, Atlanta, and the LA Dodgers. He's given up just 2 ER and K'd 17 in his last 23.1 IP, which breaks down to a stellar 2.56 ERA and a WHIP of an eye-popping 0.996. Chris has given up just 40 ER on the season, and whiffed 114 in 134.1 IP. That's a season ERA of 2.68 and a WHIP of 1.117! While Chicago counters with its ace, Carlos Zambrano, this is actually an advantage for the St. Louis backer, as Zambrano's presence has buoyed Chicago lines all season, even when it is not warranted. At Wrigley this year, Zambrano has had control issues, allowing 41 BB in 78.2 IP. The Cubs are only 6-6 at home this year when Zambrano pitches – not the kind of numbers we want to back. Both pitchers are stellar, but we're siding with the better team and laying the number. **Play St. Louis.**

Interesting line here, as the Texas Rangers are still big faves despite having lost the first two games of the series while pounding the ball out of the ballpark. We think Texas will win the game, and they'll do so while continuing to crush the ball as they have recently. Mark Redman got lit up in his latest start for KC, and has not pitched well historically against the Rangers. It is highly unlikely that the Rangers will waste as many scoring opportunities as they did last night, and we're betting that the Rangers are not the team Redman wants to face as he tries to get back on track. It's simply not happening tonight. Koronka is on the mound for the Rangers after Eaton was scratched due to food poisoning, and this LHP has actually had some solid stuff, despite his numbers. He's done well overall against KC, and his numbers are merely inflated by a few bad starts. More often than not, he comes up with a quality start. Avoid the big number and bank an underdog price - **Play Texas Rangers, -1.5.**

For this week's parlay, we're suggesting a two-teamer, with the Rockies and the Red Sox looking primed for victories. The Padres face Colorado in the final game of an 11-game road swing, and after winning behind Chris Young last night, the Friars have to be looking forward to getting home. Unfortunately, they've still got one game left against a team that will want to get back on the winning side at home. The Padres start Mike Thompson, recently recalled from Triple-A Las Vegas, who is just 1-2 in his last eight starts, a span during which his team is 3-5. He's put up a 4.66 ERA in that time. Jason Jennings takes the hill for Colorado, and although he hasn't picked up a W since June 20, he's allowed 2 ER or less a whopping five times! Yes, he allowed 6 ER in one start, but

he's got an ERA of 2.93 in his six-start winless streak, and a solid 3.17 ERA at home on the season. Jennings has beaten the Padres twice this season (1.80 ERA in those starts) and he'll make it a three-peat tonight. **Play Colorado Rockies.**

Similar situation in Boston tonight, as the Los Angeles Angels will surely already be focused on getting back to the West Coast and preparing for a critical six-game divisional homestand against Oakland and Texas. It is not a stretch to say that the Angels' playoff hopes could rest on those six games. With John Lackey going against Curt Schilling, there is no reason to think that Boston won't close out a home series against a weary team ready to get back out west and play meaningful games. Boston simply wants this one more, and they'll get it. **Play Boston Red Sox.**

→ Parlay the Boston Red Sox and the Colorado Rockies.

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