

## Free Picks – October 13<sup>th</sup> Weekend

Last week was another money-maker, as our NFL Play of the Week in the big Eagles-Cowboys match-up was bang on, followed by a big moneyline winner on the underdog New Jersey Devils against the Carolina Hurricanes in our Top Play. Our cross-sport parlay was a push, bringing our parlay record in the last three weeks to 2-0-1. This week we've got another loaded card – read ahead to start making money!

We're in prime let-down position for the Dallas Cowboys after last week's emotional loss to the Eagles. What reason do they have to get motivated for a weak AFC team like the Houston Texans? Besides the overrated "battle of Texas" thing, there isn't one. With the Giants on deck next week, it seems really strange that Dallas is laying such a huge number in a game that means very little. We're not saying the Texans defense isn't still weak – it is. However, their pass rush is improved, and Drew Bledsoe hasn't given us much to be confident about this year. This handicap makes sense for a number of reasons. Situationally, as we've explained, there's not much to play for if you're Dallas. There are reasons to believe that Houston can put up enough scores to stay within this large number. David Carr is leading the league in passing. Andre Johnson has re-emerged as a top wideout. The Texans are rested, and after a bye week, they should be well prepared. This "road" game should have lots of Houston fans, and with Ron Dayne and Samkon Gado learning Houston's system, the running game should be improved as well. This number would be ok if we were talking about Indianapolis, or the Eagles, for instance. However, we're not. Dallas showed us last week that they're not ready to be an elite team in this league, but they're priced like one. Our buddy Hansel Wei at GoSportsBet always talks about lines being like groceries – you wouldn't buy apples if they were \$5 each. We're looking to buy a football game for Sunday's game, and the Cowboys are simply priced too high. **Play the Houston Texans, ATS.**

This week's NCAA Football Play involves the Michigan Wolverines against the Penn State Nittany Lions. This game is a bargain considering the situation, and you can be sure we jumped at the opportunity to cash. You'll recall that Penn State's first defeat of the 2005 season came in Michigan to these same Wolverines, when Michigan scored a late TD to steal the win. The late score came after officials inexplicably added time to the clock for reasons unknown. This means that Penn State will be ready to put forth the effort of the season so far this Saturday. Our bet is that they'll stay within the number, and *may win the game*. Mario Manningham is not here to bail out the Wolverines this time around, and they are simply not as good a team without him. The Wolverines won't be able to demand instant double coverage the way they did with him on the field, and their attack on Penn State's secondary will be nowhere near as strong. This Penn State team has had road tests against Notre Dame and Ohio State, held the Buckeyes to 253 yards, and intercepted Troy Smith twice. Michigan is a step down in quality from Ohio

State, and QB Anthony Morrielli should get a chance to find comfort against a weaker D. Although we're tempted to go with the moneyline play here, we'll take the safe cushion with the spread. **Play Penn State, ATS.**

In baseball action, we're liking the looks of the Over in tonight's Oakland / Detroit game. The Detroit bats have been heating up recently, with the Over cashing in 11 of the team's past 15 games, including 5 of the past 6 meetings. Rich Harden has been hit hard in his last three starts, averaging under 4 innings per start, and with an ERA of 5.40 in that time. 7 out of the last 8 games Harden's pitched in have gone over the total. His opponent, Kenny Rogers, gave a vintage performance in his last game in the ALDS against the Yankees, but that one throwback outing doesn't change the fact that the Over has cashed in 4 of his last 5. What we've got here is two teams who are hitting the ball well and two pitchers who's reputations hide the fact that they've been going over far more than average this season. Easy decision here. **Play the Over.**

Excellent value with the Vancouver Canucks tonight against the San Jose Sharks. The Canucks did poorly at home towards the end of last season (winning just 2 of their last 8 home contests) and it cost them a playoff berth. They'll be looking to get out of the gate fast in the friendly confines of G.M. Place, and they'll have the loudest fans in the NHL behind them. The Canucks earned points in 3 of their first 4 games (all on the road) and they've allowed just two goals per game, thanks to new netminder Roberto Luongo. He'll be fired up in his first game in front of the Vancouver faithful, and he'll want to turn in a good performance for his new fans. The San Jose Sharks are in a tough position here, with this being the second night of a back-to-back. They blew a two-goal lead in the third period in Edmonton last night, in what should have been a revenge opportunity against the team that eliminated them from last year's playoffs. We expect the Sharks to come out toothless in Canada tonight, and the Canucks will roll to a nice win in their home opener. **Play the Vancouver Canucks on the Moneyline.**

In this week's two-team, cross-sport parlay, Hawaii heads to the mainland for the third time this season to take on Fresno State. The Warriors are just 2-10 straight up in their last 12 on the road, with the last win coming in 2005 at San Jose State. The Warriors are 1-5 ATS as road faves, yet they're in that situation here this week. We're not convinced they'll cover the number, and here's why: while the Bulldogs have collapsed in their past two games, before that they did beat Nevada at home, lost by only a touchdown to Oregon, and lost by just one point to Washington. Coach Pat Hill is now on the hot seat after his team's most recent two losses, which makes us even more confident that they'll cover the number at home against an only-decent Hawaii squad. Fresno is 7-2 ATS under Pat Hill as a home dog, and the host is 10-4 in match-ups between these two teams. Hawaii will continue to follow past trends, and Fresno will make this the third

season in a row that they beat Hawaii. However, we'll play it safe and take the spread for the easy cover. **Play Fresno State ATS.**

We've been as surprised as anyone that the Jets are off to a solid start this season. Like a lot of people, we expected them to be one of the worst teams in the league, but sure enough, they've won two games and are tied for second in the AFC East. They face a Miami team in shambles this week, with Joey Harrington as the starting QB and a weak 1-4 record. This division game could put the nail in the coffin on Miami's season, and the Jets will be more than happy to oblige. The Dolphins have suffered some inexcusable losses this season, including dropping games to Buffalo and Houston, yet for some reason are only 1-point dogs this weekend on the road. We like the Jets chances of running the ball against a weak Miami defense, and expect the home faves to have no problem winning the game. **Play New York Jets, ATS.**

**→ Parlay the New York Jets and Fresno State, ATS.**

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