

Free Picks – September 15th Weekend

It was another perfect weekend in straight wagers for the TopSportsTips team, as we stuffed wallets yet again. The NFLTopPicks team were back to their old tricks last weekend, correctly picking the Under in Chicago's blowout win over Green Bay. This play stretched their season record to a whopping 4-1, for 80%. Our NCAA pick was also a big winner, as Troy kept the game close against an FSU team that had no business being in the -30 range.

For this week's NFL play, we're going to bank on the San Diego Chargers falling prey to a prime letdown situation and allowing the Tennessee Titans to pick up a sly cover. The Titans aren't as good a team – don't be fooled. However, San Diego is coming off an impressive dismantling of the Raiders, and furthermore, are doing so on a short week. Also consider that the Titans are going to play hard and with pride for Head Coach Jeff Fisher. Tennessee was embarrassed at home by the New York Jets, and they'll want to rebound this week for their fans and themselves. The Titans, believe it or not, actually have a solid defensive core. They're not deep, but they are healthy – depth shouldn't be a factor in this one. On the Chargers' side, Philip Rivers is making just his second NFL start. Will he be able to cover nearly two touchdowns with a conservative coach? We're betting he won't. With this game looking to be a run-focused match-up, the underdog has a distinct edge, and more clock will be eaten up. **Play Tennessee Titans, ATS.**

There's simply no reason for a team like Alabama to be favored by -25 points against anyone. They've shown us nothing to note this season – they're 65th in rushing offense, averaging just under 130 yards per game and around 3.5 yards per carry. This, you'll remember, has come in two games against Hawaii and Vanderbilt – not exactly powerhouse rush defenses. The Tide has put up 19 ppg and the offense doesn't look like it's totally ready to click just yet. UL Monroe, on the other hand, is coming off a tough two-point loss at Kansas last Saturday, and in that game they actually put up 466 yards compared to Kansas's 377, and only lost the game on a missed two-point conversion. The Warhawks are not a bad team, folks, and the -25 line suggests just that. Behind new QB Kinsmon Lancaster, the Warhawks offense is getting better every game, while the Alabama defense hasn't been spectacular. Furthermore, Alabama backers are counting on the Tide offense to put up a minimum of 30 points in this one, which is anything but guaranteed. **Play the La-Monroe Warhawks, ATS.**

As a special **bonus** NCAA selection, we've got this week's Notre Dame / Michigan winner! This week's "marquee" matchup features two of the nation's powerhouse teams, each of whom comes into this one undefeated. Notre Dame's offense, averaging 390 ypg, will square off against Michigan's D, which has allowed just 187 ypg this year. Brady Quinn looked very shaky against Georgia Tech in his first game, and we expect against a superior Michigan team, he'll struggle once again. While the Notre

Dame defense has allowed only 13 points on average against GA Tech and Penn State, they gave up significant yardage to Penn State – this is not a marquee defense, people! And while Georgia Tech and Penn State are solid programs, neither is at Michigan's level. The prediction here is that Michigan continues their tendency to move the ball, gain a lot of yardage, and rely on tailback Mike Hart to move the chains. This one will come down to the Michigan D stopping Quinn and the Irish offense, and the Notre Dame defense being unable to do the same thing. **Play Michigan Wolverines, ATS.**

Aaron Smith and the MLBTopPicks team passed on last week's card, but they're not passing this week, not with a Boston / New York shootout lined up! The thing is though, this one won't even be close, and it's only public opinion that's keeping this line from getting out of hand. For whatever reason, the betting public still likes the Red Sox, and despite having an abysmal August and dropping out of contention, this line is still in the -120 range, favoring the Yanks at home. This line is incorrect, and we'll take advantage. Boston starter Josh Beckett has looked nothing like the ace Red Sox fans were looking for when the team signed him to a big extension earlier this year. Instead, he's 0-2 in his last three, and his team has lost each of those games. Although both Beckett and Yankees starter Chien-Ming Wang have pitched roughly 20 innings in their last three starts, and each have given up 18 hits over that stretch, Wang is 2-0 and his team is 3-0 in those games, Wang boasts a sparkling 1.74 ERA compared to Beckett's 4.05 ERA, and Beckett's walked more people. What these numbers indicate to us is that while Wang and Beckett are giving up hits at the same rate, Beckett is getting killed by too many walks, and he and his defense are allowing opponents to convert those hits into runs. New York comes into this one having gone 8-2 in their past 10 games, and is looking to get ready for a lengthy playoff run. Boston is a .500 ball club over that stretch and is overmatched tonight. Lay the small number with the better team, and **Play New York Yankees.**

This week's NCAA Parlay pits Iowa State against Iowa, and we're taking Iowa State. They've won a pair of close games, and will undoubtedly be pumped up for their tilt against their state rivals. The Cyclones are 6-2 SU and 7-1 ATS in their last eight meetings, and they come into this one ready for whatever Iowa will throw their way. We're assuming Iowa QB Drew Tate will be ready to play, but if he's not it's an added bonus. Even with Tate, it took OT for the Hawkeyes to get past Syracuse, and we suspect two touchdowns is too much to ask. Last season this game ended 23-3 for Iowa State. For them to lose against the number this season would take a 34-point turnaround from that result. We're not buying it. Instead, we're looking for a tight match, and for the fifth time in the last six games between these schools, we expect the 'dog to cover. **Play Iowa State Cyclones, ATS.**

Our second play in this week's parlay involves an improved Missouri team against New Mexico, and emotional edges plus key matchups make this a solid play on Missouri. New Mexico has lost more from last year's team than perhaps any other squad in the nation, having lost their QB, RB, and WR, all of whom put up big numbers against Missouri last season. With a new coach in Bob Toledo and an inexperienced starting QB

in Chris Nelson, New Mexico's offense will find themselves green and overmatched against a superior Missouri team. However, it doesn't end there – New Mexico's defense has just one senior starter, and they'll have their hands full against Missouri's offensive line, which averages 315 lbs per man. Tiger QB Chase Daniel will have all kinds of time to operate and find his strong receiving corps. There will be no letting up for Missouri in this one, as they'll continue New Mexico's bad start and make this one look ugly. **Play Missouri Tigers, ATS.**

→ **Parlay Iowa State and Missouri, ATS.**

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