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WINNING POINTS

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NFL WILDCARD PLAYOFFS

COMPLETE COVERAGE OF ALL 4 GAMES

JETS VS. BENGALS
EAGLES VS. COWBOYS
RAVENS VS. PATROITS
PACKERS VS. CARDINALS

LATE BOWL RECAPS & HOOPS INSIDE!

-NFL PLAYOFF LOGS -COMPUTER PICKS -OPENING LINES

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*Cincinnati over New York Jets by 6

The Jets are about to encounter a new experience when they fly into Cincinnati. They're going to face a team that actually wants to win a game. How's that for a change? That hasn't been the case during the past two weeks for the Jets. They've lucked out drawing the Colts, who gave them the game two weeks ago by pulling Peyton Manning and other starters, and then getting the Bengals this past Sunday night when Cincinnati lacked incentive and motivation. Well, the Bengals have plenty on the line now not to mention revenge for being humiliated on national television. These are two very similar teams. They're conservative, ground-oriented and have outstanding defenses. The Bengals didn't show anything when they got embarrassed by the pumped-up Jets last week. They purposely held out Cedric Benson, their best runner. Benson now will be rested and ready. The Jets weren't in a position to hold anything back against the Bengals. They had to show all their tricks so they unleashed Brad Smith in the Wildcat formation and caught the Bengals by surprise. Marvin Lewis' team will be much better prepared this time around. The key for the Jets last week was getting ahead early. That took the pressure off rookie quarterback Mark Sanchez, who has thrown 20 interceptions. But now Sanchez is heading into enemy territory. The Jets are 0-5 when Sanchez is intercepted more than once in a game. Only once before last Sunday had Sanchez gone two straight games without being picked off. He had thrown eight interceptions in two previous cold-weather games before this past Sunday. The weather figures to be cold in Cincinnati this time of year. The Bengals are going to be geared to stop the run and the Jets' Wildcat formation. They should have their best run defender back in tackle Domata Peko, who has missed six games but should be healthy. The Bengals have a veteran quarterback, Carson Palmer, to go with their solid ground game. He knows how to manage a game and get the ball distributed to his wide receivers. Chad Ochocinco had a touchdown catch in each of his last four games prior to last Sunday. Shayne Graham has been one of the hottest kickers in the league. Since the Bengals switched long snappers, Graham has connected on 19-of-21 field goals, including his last 12. Christmas has officially ended for the Jets. There are no more gifts coming anymore. The Jets performed rather well for rookie coach Rex Ryan. But their run will end here. CINCINNATI 20-14.

Philadelphia over *Dallas by 1

OK, no more December jokes about the Cowboys. Not after Dallas has reeled off consecutive victories beating New Orleans, Washington and Philadelphia. The Cowboys have held their last four foes to a combined 37 points, with 20 of them coming to the high-powered Chargers four games ago. Dallas' offense is playing at a high level, too. Tony Romo has a 106.7 passer rating in his last six games completing 68 percent of his throws for 1,659 yards with an 11-to-2 touchdown-to-interception ratio during this span. Dallas' ground game is also clicking with a healthy Felix Jones providing an outside threat to Marion Barber's inside runs. Wide receiver Roy Williams is missing in action with just two receptions during the past three weeks, but the Cowboys get great production from Miles Austin and tight end Jason Witten. Having 100,000 fans pack their new $1.2 billion dollar stadium isn't going to hurt the Cowboys either. But our lean is toward the Eagles, a team that knows how to win in the postseason and has a coaching edge with Andy Reid against Wade Phillips. The Eagles are 5-3 ATS in the playoffs since 2004. Dallas is 0-6 in its last six playoff contests. The Cowboys lost to the Giants, 21-17, as 7 _-point home favorites two years ago the only time they made the playoffs under Phillips. The Eagles were even hotter than the Cowboys before their 24-0 loss this past Sunday. Philadelphia had set a franchise scoring record for its first 15 games averaging 28.6 points per game before Sunday's loss. The Eagles entered that matchup having won six in a row while averaging 31.2 points. Donovan McNabb is a proven big-play performer, something Romo has yet to achieve in the postseason. McNabb has dangerous weapons with DeSean Jackson and a healthy Brian Westbrook. Jackson has scored at least one touchdown in five of the last six games. He could be the best punt returner in the league. The Eagles caught a bad break when center Jamaal Jackson suffered a torn ACL two weeks ago. Right guard Nick Cole became the Eagles' center. This will be the second week McNabb will work with Cole. He should be more comfortable. The Eagles know how to win on the road. They are 35-17 (67 percent) ATS in their last 52 road contests. They have covered in seven of their last nine games on carpet. The road team in this series has covered six of the past eight times. The underdog is 8-3 ATS in this series. PHILADELPHIA 24-23.

*New England over Baltimore by 6

By no means is this a vintage Bill Belichick Patriots team. Tom Brady is banged-up, NFL leading pass-catcher Wes Welker is out, and the defense isn't up to the team's previous Super Bowl standards. Still, New England has enough to get past Baltimore at home. Brady with broken ribs and a broken finger is still much better than Ravens' second-year quarterback Joe Flacco. Brady and Randy Moss can take advantage of a Baltimore secondary made extremely vulnerable by injuries to two of its top three cornerbacks. Star safety Ed Reed is back for the Ravens, but it's not enough to compensate. Welker suffered a bad knee injury in the Patriots' loss on Sunday to the Texans. Luckily for the Patriots, they have a near-Welker clone as a replacement in Julian Edelman. Flacco won't be able to keep up with Brady. He started the year strong but tailed off failing to reach 300 yards passing during the last 10 games. Flacco averaged just 173 yards through the air in the past five games. If you discount his four-touchdown game against the Bears, Flacco's touchdown-to-interception ratio is 4-to-4 during the last four games. The Ravens need all-purpose back Ray Rice and Willis McGahee to move the chains for them. Keep in mind, Belichick rested his two best run-stuffers against the Texans, Vince Wilfork and Ty Warren. Wilfork could be New England's best defensive player. The Patriots' defense was playing their best ball prior to this past Sunday yielding a combined 27 points in their previous three games against the Panthers, Bills and Jaguars. Yes, Baltimore has a better offense than those three teams. However, the Ravens are far less intimidating on the road. They own a losing road mark at 3-5. They are a different team outside of Baltimore. Consequently, New England is much better at Gillette Stadium. The Patriots won all of their home contests with all the victories except an opening-game win against Buffalo coming by six or more points. One of these home victories was against the Ravens, 27-21 on Oct. 4. Flacco was playing much better back then, while Brady still hadn't cleared off all his rust. This hasn't been Belichick's best year coaching. Who can forget his decision to not the punt the ball against the Colts? But he's still Belichick, the best coach in the NFL. And Brady still is Brady. The combination, along with the always dangerous Moss and being at home, make the Patriots worthy of support. NEW ENGLAND 26-20.

*Arizona over Green Bay by 6

The knee jerk reaction is to take the Packers after watching them dismantle the Cardinals at home, 33-7, this past Sunday. It's easy to feel that way, especially if wide receiver Anquan Boldin (check status) and cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (check status) can't go after getting hurt in Sunday's loss. The Packers are peaking having gone 7-1 SU and 7-0-1 ATS in their last eight games. Aaron Rodgers deserves to be mentioned in any MVP discussions. But many found out last year it's a mistakes to underrate the Cardinals in postseason. Arizona only covered all four of its playoff games last season on its way to the Super Bowl. This year the Cardinals are better than their Super Bowl team of a year ago. It's not a fluke they are double-digit win team. They run the ball better with rookie Beanie Wells, their defense is better, Kurt Warner still is very good and their special teams coverage units are greatly improved. Not to take anything away from Green Bay's performance this last Sunday, but Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt only used his first-team defense for one possession. Whisenhunt didn't care about the game once he found out the Vikings had won and his team couldn't improve their playoff seeding. The Cardinals have become very tough at home under Whisenhunt winning 18 of 26 games at University of Phoenix Stadium. They have covered eight of their last 12 home contests. The Cardinals are 14-7 ATS in their last 21 games overall. Green Bay has holes. Its offensive line is leaky and made worse by Rodgers often holding the ball too long, Ryan Grant is a mediocre runner, kicker Mason Crosby is unsteady, special teams are below average and the Packers have key defensive injuries with linebacker Aaron Kampman and cornerback Al Harris out. Things will be far worse for Green Bay if star cornerback Charles Woodson (check status) is out, too, after suffering a bruised shoulder. The Packers lack the necessary secondary depth to cover all the Cardinals' quality wide-outs headed by the magnificent Larry Fitzgerald, who seems to play his best in the clutch. Fitzgerald averaged 7 _ receptions, 136.5 yards and 1.8 touchdowns in four postseason games last season. Fitzgerald has plenty of help with Boldin, Steve Breaston, Jerheme Urban and Early Doucet. The Packers have trouble with big savvy veteran quarterbacks like Brett Favre and Warner, the kind of quarterbacks who know how to read blitzes, aren't intimidated and have a quick release. This matchup has all the makings of a shootout between Rodgers and Warner. ARIZONA 30-24.

NFL PLAYOFFS

WP OPENING LINE and OVER/UNDER (Line + Time May Change by Game Day) STARTING TIMES (E) Eastern (C) Central (P) Pacific

Saturday, January 9, 2010

		Line	O/U
N.Y. JETS CINCINNATI	1:30P 3:30C 4:30E	3	36
PHILADELPHIA DALLAS	5:00P 7:00C 8:00E	4½	45½

Sunday, January 10, 2010

		Line	O/U
BALTIMORE NEW ENGLAND	10:00P 12:00C 1:00E	5	42
GRTEEN BAY ARIZONA	1:30P 3:30C 4:30E	2	48½

COMPU-MATCH ... and other angles

	Pred. Score	Off Rank	Def Rank	T/o +/-
N.Y. JETS	22	20	1	1
CINCINNATI	19	24	4	0
PHILADELPHIA	27	10	12	15
DALLAS	23	2	9	2

	Pred. Score	Off Rank	Def Rank	T/o +/-
BALTIMORE	21	11	3	11
NEW ENGLAND	27	3	10	6
GREEN BAY	29	5	2	24
ARIZONA	24	14	20	-5

NFL LOGS

BALTIMORE-Natural

OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE	O/U	RUSHES	PASS-COMP/ATT-YDS	SACKED	INT.	FUM.	YDS PEN	POS TIME
KANSAS CITY	-13	W 38-24	36/O	41-198/17-29	26-43-303/16-24-159	1/3	1/0	0/0	65-15	40-20
at San Diego	+1	W 31-26	41/O	32-130/21-53	18-27-181/25-45-421	1/2	1/2	0/0	32-85	29-31
CLEVELAND	-13.5	W 34-3	38/U	28-142/23-71	26-37-337/17-27-115	1/2	0/4	1/0	84-46	31-29
at New England	+2	L 21-27	45/O	17-116/30-85	27-47-247/21-32-234	2/3	1/0	1/1	85-41	25-35
CINCINNATI	-9	L 14-17	42/U	18-82/34-142	22-31-175/18-31-261	2/1	2/1	0/1	76-39	26-34
at Minnesota	+3	W 31-33	45/O	18-81/31-167	28-43-367/21-29-259	3/3	0/0	0/0	74-15	25-35
DENVER	-4.5	W 30-7	42/U	35-125/19-66	20-25-167/23-37-134	2/2	0/0	0/1	94-35	34-26
at Cincinnati	-3	L 7-17	42/U	17-55/39-146	18-32-160/20-33-223	4/1	2/0	0/1	80-40	20-40
at Cleveland (Mon)	-11	W 16-0	39/U	36-134/26-86	13-19-140/13-31-74	3/4	0/2	0/0	43-52	32-28
INDIANAPOLIS	+2	T 15-17	44/U	31-98/25-76	23-35-256/22-31-299	0/0	1/2	1/1	20-40	33-27
PITTSBURGH	-7.5	L 20-17	34/O	29-132/38-153	23-35-261/12-26-145	5/0	0/1	2/0	80-59	32-36
at Green Bay (Mon)	+4	L 14-27	43/U	21-66/27-94	15-36-119/26-40-256	3/1	3/2	1/1	135-175	25-35
DETROIT	-14	W 48-3	40/O	40-308/32-103	15-23-240/16-34-126	0/1	0/2	0/0	50-40	30-30
CHICAGO	-11	W 31-7	39/U	31-124/30-122	23-33-222/12-32-98	2/2	1/4	0/2	26-9	32-28
at Pittsburgh	+3	T 20-23	43/T	38-175/23-48	13-25-148/17-33-238	4/4	1/1	2/1	113-20	33-27
at Oakland	-10	L 21-13	39/U	35-240/20-51	11-19-90/27-39-274	4/3	0/1	0/1	37-30	28-32

CINCINNATI-Artificial

OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE	O/U	RUSHES	PASS-COMP/ATT-YDS	SACKED	INT.	FUM.	YDS PEN	POS TIME
DENVER	-4.5	L 7-12	41/U	27-86/20-75	21-33-221/17-28-227	3/3	2/0	0/0	27-39	33-27
at Green Bay	+7.5	W 31-24	42/O	34-151/18-89	15-23-168/21-39-222	2/6	2/0	0/1	100-76	34-26
PITTSBURGH	+3.5	W 23-20	37/O	19-100/28-102	20-37-173/22-31-271	2/1	0/1	0/0	30-51	25-35
at Cleveland	-6.5	L 23-20	37/O	30-154/33-146	23-44-221/26-48-249	2/2	1/1	1/1	46-44	36-39
at Baltimore	+9	W 17-14	42/U	34-142/18-82	18-31-261/22-31-175	1/2	1/2	1/0	39-76	34-26
HOUSTON	-4	L 17-28	46/U	17-46/31-87	23-35-250/28-40-385	1/2	1/1	2/1	45-60	24-36
CHICAGO	+1.5	W 45-10	43/O	45-215/12-35	20-24-233/27-39-244	0/1	0/3	0/1	20-44	36-24
BALTIMORE	+3	W 17-7	42/U	39-146/17-55	20-33-223/18-32-160	1/4	0/2	1/0	40-80	40-20
at Pittsburgh	+7	W 18-12	42/U	29-61/18-80	18-30-157/20-40-146	2/4	0/1	0/0	87-50	29-31
at Oakland	-8.5	L 17-20	36/O	43-177/24-92	14-22-171/17-34-183	3/0	1/1	3/2	59-13	38-22
CLEVELAND	-13	L 16-7	39/U	45-210/18-58	13-24-96/16-35-111	3/1	0/0	0/0	75-30	38-22
DETROIT	-13	L 23-13	42/U	44-119/20-80	17-29-202/13-29-165	2/3	2/2	1/0	75-45	39-21
at Minnesota	+6	L 10-30	42/U	24-119/37-142	16-28-91/17-30-180	1/2	0/1	1/0	85-69	28-32
at San Diego	+7	W 24-27	44/O	21-114/20-70	27-40-293/24-38-296	2/2	1/2	0/0	55-30	32-28
KANSAS CITY	-13	L 17-10	39/U	36-144/28-123	17-25-130/22-37-172	1/1	1/2	0/0	36-40	34-26
at NY Jets	+10	L 0-37	33/O	18-72/57-257	4-19-0/8-16-63	3/0	1/0	2/0	44-20	19-41

NEW ENGLAND-Natural

OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE	O/U	RUSHES	PASS-COMP/ATT-YDS	SACKED	INT.	FUM.	YDS PEN	POS TIME
BUFFALO (Mon)	-13	L 25-24	47/O	23-73/19-90	39-53-368/15-25-186	1/4	1/0	0/1	55-71	37-23
at NY Jets	-3.5	L 9-16	45/U	20-83/31-117	23-47-216/14-22-137	0/2	1/0	0/1	89-55	31-29
ATLANTA	-4.5	W 26-10	45/U	39-168/17-58	25-42-277/17-28-199	0/0	0/0	0/1	10-54	40-20
BALTIMORE	-2	W 27-21	45/O	30-85/17-116	21-32-234/27-47-247	3/2	0/1	1/1	41-85	35-25
at Denver	-3	L 17-20	41/U	27-96/25-103	19-33-209/35-48-321	1/2	0/1	1/1	46-20	28-32
TENNESSEE	-9.5	W 59-0	38/O	30-193/36-193	38-45-426/2-14-(-7)	2/0	0/2	0/3	40-55	39-21
at Tampa Bay (Lond)	-15.5	W 35-7	45/U	28-107/26-89	23-32-307/11-30-151	1/3	2/3	0/0	66-55	33-27
MIAMI	-11	L 27-17	47/U	24-109/31-133	25-37-323/20-37-201	2/2	1/0	0/0	49-35	29-31
at Indianapolis	+2	W 34-35	49/O	28-113/18-91	29-42-364/28-44-316	2/1	1/2	1/0	72-20	35-25
NY JETS	-11	W 31-14	46/U	35-111/26-104	28-41-299/8-21-122	2/2	0/4	1/1	51-28	40-20
at New Orleans (Mon)	+2	L 17-38	57/U	28-122/26-113	23-40-244/18-23-367	2/1	2/0	1/1	0-36	33-27
at Miami	-5.5	L 21-22	46/U	25-96/27-88	19-29-352/29-52-328	0/1	2/1	0/0	82-10	27-33
CAROLINA	-13	L 20-10	43/U	40-185/24-126	19-32-192/15-30-179	0/2	1/0	2/0	25-92	34-26
at Buffalo	-7	T 17-10	42/U	34-109/23-105	11-23-115/18-27-136	0/6	1/1	0/0	52-124	26-34
JACKSONVILLE	-9.5	W 35-7	44/U	36-197/25-98	23-26-267/19-25-177	0/2	0/2	1/0	10-5	32-28
at Houston	+7.5	W 27-34	46/O	19-74/27-144	25-38-243/24-39-295	2/1	1/1	1/0	55-35	28-32

NEW YORK JETS-Natural

OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE	O/U	RUSHES	PASS-COMP/ATT-YDS	SACKED	INT.	FUM.	YDS PEN	POS TIME
at Houston	+4.5	W 24-7	44/U	42-190/13-38	18-31-272/18-33-145	0/2	1/1	0/1	80-37	39-21
NEW ENGLAND	+3.5	W 16-9	45/U	31-117/20-83	14-22-137/23-47-216	2/0	0/1	1/0	55-89	29-31
TENNESSEE	-1	W 24-17	36/U	31-83/30-127	17-30-146/15-37-159	3/2	1/2	1/2	25-15	33-27
at New Orleans	+7.5	L 10-24	47/U	27-132/32-153	14-27-112/20-32-190	4/0	3/0	1/1	21-70	27-33
at MIami (Mon)	-3	L 27-31	37/O	38-138/36-151	12-241-171/21-28-262	1/0	0/0	0/0	56-112	26-34
BUFFALO	-9.5	L 13-16	36/U	40-318/42-142	10-30-96/15-30-154	2/1	6/1	0/1	96-64	33-39
at Oakland	-6	W 38-0	34/O	54-316/19-119	9-15-131/16-30-144	1/3	0/2	0/2	8-24	36-24
MIAMI	-3.5	L 25-30	40/O	40-127/23-52	20-35-251/12-22-52	2/6	0/0	1/1	40-25	34-26
JACKSONVILLE	-7	L 22-24	41/O	29-110/32-139	16-31-212/16-26-208	0/2	2/0	1/1	26-40	29-31
at New England	+11	L 14-31	46/U	26-104/35-111	8-21-122/28-41-299	2/2	4/0	1/1	28-51	20-40
CAROLINA	-3	W 17-6	42/U	39-139/25-75	13-18-144/14-34-104	3/3	1/4	2/0	24-30	33-27
Buffalo (Thur at Tor)	-3.5	W 19-13	37/U	43-249/24-123	8-17-82/9-23-71	5/3	0/1	0/1	18-5	35-25
at Tampa Bay	-3.5	W 26-3	36/U	42-175/20-43	13-24-135/14-33-81	1/3	0/3	1/0	63-34	34-26
ATLANTA	-5	L 7-10	36/U	33-99/28-86	18-32-215/16-34-152	2/0	3/0	0/0	65-25	31-29
at Indianapolis	+3.5	W 29-15	41/O	44-202/24-64	12-19-91/18-32-213	2/2	0/1	0/1	52-15	33-27
CINCINNATI	-10	W 37-0	37/O	57-257/18-72	8-16-63/4-19-0	0/3	0/1	0/2	20-44	41-19

ARIZONA-Natural

OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE	O/U	RUSHES	PASS-COMP/ATT-YDS	SACKED	INT.	FUM.	YDS PEN	POS TIME
SAN FRANCISCO	-5	L 16-20	46/U	17-40/25-21	26-44-259/18-31-182	3/4	2/0	0/1	82-31	28-32
at Jacksonville	+3	W 31-17	44/O	28-118/20-92	27-32-265/23-43-280	0/4	0/1	2/2	58-50	31-29
INDIANAPOLIS	-3	L 10-31	49/U	12-24/31-126	32-54-299/24-35-379	4/0	2/1	1/1	35-69	28-32
HOUSTON	-6	W 28-21	51/U	16-44/21-45	26-38-296/35-50-371	1/0	0/1	1/0	40-53	27-33
at Seattle	+3	W 27-3	46/U	26-62/11-14	34-43-282/11-30-114	2/5	1/1	1/1	76-56	43-17
at NY Giants	+7.5	W 24-17	37/O	22-72/26-107	20-36-216/19-37-220	2/3	1/3	1/1	60-30	30-30
CAROLINA	-10	L 21-34	44/O	17-94/44-270	27-46-226/7-15-85	2/1	5/0	1/0	35-72	27-33
at Chicago	+2	W 41-21	45/O	31-182/12-70	22-33-256/29-47-347	1/4	1/1	0/0	15-89	33-27
SEATTLE	-8.5	W 31-20	47/O	30-122/24-164	29-38-340/27-53-308	0/4	0/2	0/0	136-113	31-29
at St Louis	-9	L 21-13	47/U	30-183/27-123	25-33-261/19-37-191	2/3	0/1	2/0	40-50	32-28
at Tennessee	+3	T 17-20	44/U	20-75/23-163	21-31-217/27-43-369	1/4	0/0	0/1	25-38	29-31
MINNESOTA	+3.5	W 30-17	48/U	25-113/20-62	22-32-285/30-45-253	0/3	0/2	1/0	50-48	29-31
at San Francisco (Mon)	-4	L 9-24	44/U	18-85/36-189	16-29-160/19-35-138	4/1	2/2	5/0	78-55	23-37
at Detroit	-14	L 31-24	47/O	26-117/27-161	23-37-223/16-31-121	2/2	1/2	2/1	65-45	30-30
ST LOUIS	-16.5	W 31-10	44/U	32-110/21-88	24-38-297/20-32-150	2/4	0/3	1/1	15-20	34-26
GREEN BAY	-3	L 7-33	42/U	14-48/34-109	19-31-139/22-29-236	0/1	3/1	0/0	76-19	23-37

DALLAS-Artificial

OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE	O/U	RUSHES	PASS-COMP/ATT-YDS	SACKED	INT.	FUM.	YDS PEN	POS TIME
at Tampa Bay	-5.5	W 34-21	39/O	24-118/31-174	16-27-344/25-42-276	1/0	0/0	0/0	41-15	26-34
NY GIANTS	-3	W 31-33	45/O	29-251/26-97	13-29-127/25-38-330	0/0	3/0	1/0	50-40	25-35
CAROLINA (Mon)	-8.5	W 21-7	48/U	32-212/16-73	22-33-237/22-33-198	2/3	0/2	0/1	80-60	37-23
at Denver	-3	L 10-17	44/U	25-74/25-116	25-42-241/20-29-221	5/2	1/0	1/1	70-81	33-27
at Kansas City	-7	L 26-20	44/O	26-150/29-72	20-34-348/23-41-232	1/4	0/0	2/0	90-50	32-34
ATLANTA	-5	W 37-21	48/O	28-115/26-124	21-29-299/19-35-174	2/4	0/2	1/1	50-30	29-31
SEATTLE	-10	W 38-17	46/O	29-113/22-79	21-36-249/22-39-229	2/3	0/0	1/2	43-53	35-25
at Philadelphia	+3	W 20-16	49/U	23-76/23-89	21-34-282/16-30-208	4/4	1/2	0/0	70-82	32-28
at Green Bay	-3	L 7-17	48/U	14-61/28-105	24-39-217/25-36-178	5/4	1/0	2/0	67-100	24-36
WASHINGTON	-11	L 7-6	42/U	33-153/20-78	15-27-152/24-37-246	1/1	1/1	1/0	35-27	31-29
OAKLAND (Thanks)	-14	W 24-7	40/U	25-195/24-124	18-29-299/18-35-181	2/3	0/0	0/1	48-70	31-29
at NY Giants	-1.5	L 24-31	45/O	23-45/23-100	41-55-379/11-25-237	2/1	0/1	1/1	30-10	39-21
SAN DIEGO	-3.5	L 17-20	49/U	27-108/31-73	19-30-239/21-32-268	1/1	0/1	0/0	68-24	30-30
at New Orleans (Sat)	+7.5	W 24-17	53/U	36-145/13-65	22-34-294/29-45-271	3/4	0/1	0/2	49-30	36-24
at Washington	-7	W 17-0	42/U	30-108/18-43	25-38-285/24-39-175	1/3	1/1	0/0	21-33	35-25
PHILADELPHIA	-3	W 24-0	47/U	32-179/10-37	24-34-295/20-36-191	2/4	1/0	0/1	80-58	40-20

GREEN BAY-Natural

OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE	O/U	RUSHES	PASS-COMP/ATT-YDS	SACKED	INT.	FUM.	YDS PEN	POS TIME
CHICAGO	-4.5	W 21-15	46/U	22-76/31-86	17-28-150/17-36-266	4/2	0/4	0/0	45-25	27-33
CINCINNATI	-7.5	L 24-31	42/O	18-89/34-151	21-39-222/15-23-168	6/2	0/2	1/0	76-100	26-34
at St. Louis	-6.5	W 36-17	43/O	37-152/33-149	13-23-250/19-35-187	2/1	0/1	0/2	51-40	30-30
at Minnesota (Mon)	+4.5	L 23-30	46/O	17-82/30-63	26-37-342/24-32-271	2/5	1/0	1/1	57-10	28-32
DETROIT	-14	W 26-0	48/U	30-107/18-78	29-37-328/11-25-71	5/5	1/3	1/0	130-40	41-19
at Cleveland	-9	W 31-3	41/U	41-202/21-58	16-22-258/12-29-81	0/2	0/1	0/1	70-40	36-24
MINNESOTA	-3	L 26-38	47/O	19-90/32-111	27-42-261/17-28-244	6/0	0/0	0/2	45-29	33-27
at Tampa Bay	-10	L 28-38	43/O	32-170/25-81	17-35-234/14-31-198	6/1	3/1	0/0	35-15	35-25
DALLAS	+3	W 17-7	48/U	28-105/14-61	25-36-178/24-39-217	4/5	0/1	0/2	100-67	36-24
SAN FRANCISCO	-6.5	L 30-24	42/O	32-158/10-69	32-45-326/16-33-215	2/3	0/1	0/0	64-30	42-18
at Detroit (Thanks)	-11	W 34-12	48/U	27-80/23-73	28-39-342/20-43-199	1/2	0/4	2/1	57-28	34-26
BALTIMORE (Mon)	-4	W 27-14	43/U	27-94/21-66	26-40-256/15-36-119	1/3	2/3	1/1	175-135	35-25
at Chicago	-4	W 21-14	42/U	31-146/17-59	16-24-169/23-36-195	2/3	0/2	2/0	30-109	31-29
at Pittsburgh	+2.5	W 36-37	42/O	12-60/19-65	26-48-376/29-46-472	1/5	0/0	0/0	53-84	25-35
SEATTLE	-13.5	W 48-10	43/O	32-153/29-115	16-29-264/19-37-176	1/3	0/4	0/0	50-86	32-28
at Arizona	+3	W 33-7	42/U	34-109/14-48	22-29-236/19-31-139	1/0	1/3	0/0	19-76	37-23

PHILADELPHIA-Artificial

OPPONENT	SPREAD	SCORE	O/U	RUSHES	PASS-COMP/ATT-YDS	SACKED	INT.	FUM.	YDS PEN	POS TIME
at Carolina	-2.5	W 38-10	44/O	32-185/30-86	17-29-82/14-34-83	2/5	1/5	1/2	76-30	32-28
NEW ORLEANS	+2.5	L 22-48	46/O	21-85/29-133	31-52-378/25-34-288	2/2	3/1	1/0	45-13	29-31
KANSAS CITY	-7.5	W 34-14	39/O	27-93/29-99	24-36-327/15-19-97	0/3	0/0	1/1	20-90	31-29
TAMPA BAY	-16	W 33-14	42/O	21-76/22-85	17-24-249/26-50-218	3/3	0/3	0/0	111-30	25-35
at Oakland	-14	L 9-13	41/U	14-67/35-116	22-46-216/17-28-209	6/2	0/2	0/0	38-23	27-33
at Washington (Mon)	-8.5	W 27-17	38/O	27-122/19-62	16-26-140/29-43-246	3/6	0/1	0/3	66-60	28-32
NY GIANTS	+2.5	W 40-17	44/O	24-180/32-141	17-23-211/20-39-215	2/2	0/2	2/1	45-25	24-36
DALLAS	-3	L 16-20	49/U	23-89/23-76	16-30-208/21-34-282	4/4	2/1	0/0	82-70	28-32
at San Diego	+1.5	L 23-31	47/O	13-29/28-119	35-56-433/20-25-212	2/2	1/0	0/0	70-31	29-31
at Chicago	-3.5	W 24-20	47/U	30-157/20-126	24-33-220/24-43-158	3/1	1/1	2/0	46-64	31-29
WASHINGTON	-10	L 27-24	41/O	29-123/25-82	21-36-258/22-37-221	2/1	1/2	0/0	60-39	30-30
at Atlanta	-5	W 34-7	43/U	26-103/22-61	16-27-277/23-44-234	2/2	0/2	0/1	62-30	29-31
at NY Giants	-1	W 45-38	43/O	24-77/32-143	18-28-287/26-41-370	1/2	1/0	0/4	45-54	25-35
SAN FRANCISCO	-7.5	W 27-13	41/U	33-116/18-107	21-36-306/20-37-154	0/3	2/3	0/1	69-55	32-28
DENVER	-7	L 30-27	43/O	28-105/18-70	20-35-289/27-41-171	4/3	1/1	2/0	59-95	31-29
at Dallas	+3	L 0-24	47/U	10-37/32-179	20-36-191/24-34-295	4/2	0/1	1/0	58-80	20-40

COLLEGE BOWLS RECAP

Tuesday, January 5

ORANGE BOWL *(Miami, FL)*

Georgia Tech over Iowa by 7 (31-24)

Wednesday, January 6

GMAC BOWL *(Mobile, AL)*

Troy over Central Michigan by 3 (33-30)

Thursday, January 7

BCS CHAMPIONSHIP *(Pasadena, CA)*

Alabama over Texas by 10 (27-17)

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

ORANGE BOWL at Miami, FL

IOWA		
GEORGIA TECH	4	50 1/2

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

GMAC BOWL at Mobile, AL

TROY		
CENTRAL MICH	3 1/2	63 1/2

Thursday, January 7, 2010

BCS CHAMPIONSHIP BOWL at Pasadena, CA

TEXAS		
ALABAMA	4	45

2009 COLLEGE LOGS

ALABAMA-NAT(SEC-W)				(Run Yds-Pass Yds-TO)	
va tech*	-6.5	W	34-24	268-230-2	64-91-2
FLA INT	-33	L	40-14	275-241-1	1-213-0
NO TEX	-38	W	53-7	260-263-1	61-126-0
ARK	-18	W	35-7	134-291-0	63-191-1
ky	-16.5	W	38-20	204-148-0	133-168-4
miss	-4	W	22-3	200-154-1	72-140-5
SO CAR	-18	L	20-6	264-92-4	64-214-2
TENN	-14	L	12-10	136-120-1	76-265-1
LSU	-7.5	W	24-15	176-276-1	95-158-1
miss st	-12	W	31-3	252-192-0	114-99-3
CHATT	NL		45-0	313-109-0	48-36-3
auburn	-10	L	26-21	73-218-0	151-181-2
florida*	+5	W	32-13	251-239-0	88-247-1

CENT MICH-ART(M-A-W)				(Run Yds-Pass Yds-TO)	
ariz	+15	W	6-19	74-108-2	246-202-2
mich st	+14.5	W	29-27	66-352-1	101-215-0
ALC ST	NL		48-0	178-141-0	36-100-1
AKRON	-15.5	W	48-21	326-197-1	69-127-1
buffalo	-9.5	L	20-13	144-268-2	223-210-1
E MICH	-24	W	56-8	203-318-0	128-127-0
w mich	-7	W	34-23	188-238-1	87-410-1
bowl gr	-9.5	W	24-10	259-147-0	20-343-2
bos col	+5	L	10-31	93-218-2	150-262-0
TOLEDO	-17.5	W	56-28	166-341-0	131-222-5
ball st	-14.5	W	35-3	168-344-2	126-105-2
NO ILL	-13	W	45-31	257-255-2	126-206-3
ohio*	-13.5	L	20-10	126-255-1	108-167-1

GA TECH-NAT(ACC)				(Run Yds-Pass Yds-TO)	
JAX ST	NL		37-17	335-162-3	98-193-2
CLEMSON	-5.5	L	30-27	301-117-2	125-261-2
mia fl	+4	L	17-33	95-133-0	184-270-0
NO CAR	-2.5	W	24-7	317-89-0	17-137-3
miss st	-6	W	42-31	213-266-1	209-278-5
fla st	+3	W	49-44	401-131-3	180-359-2
VA TECH	+3.5	W	28-23	309-51-2	175-159-2
va	-6	W	34-9	362-85-1	30-168-1
vandy	-12	W	56-31	404-193-1	218-179-3
WAKE F	-14	L	30-27	412-51-1	28-263-0
duke	-13.5	W	49-10	306-213-1	25-256-1
GEORGIA	-8	L	24-30	205-135-2	339-76-1
clemson*	pk	W	39-34	333-136-0	323-91-2

IOWA-NAT(B-10)				(Run Yds-Pass Yds-TO)	
N IOWA	NL		17-16	87-242-2	84-270-1
iowa st	-6.5	W	35-3	191-235-2	190-113-6
ARIZ	-4.5	W	27-17	133-205-1	148-105-1
pen st	+9.5	W	21-10	163-135-2	109-198-4
ARK ST	-21.5	L	24-21	124-296-2	80-216-2
MICH	-9	L	30-28	83-284-1	195-124-5
wisc	+1	W	20-10	65-218-1	87-143-3
mich st	+1	W	15-13	138-138-0	85-225-0
IND	-17.5	W	42-24	143-337-6	79-227-3
NWSTRN	-15	L	10-17	65-216-4	130-109-1
ohio st	+16.5	W	24-27	67-233-3	229-93-0
MINN	-12	T	12-0	54-117-2	48-153-3

TEXAS-NAT(B-12S)				(Run Yds-Pass Yds-TO)	
LA MON	-44	L	59-20	199-363-3	101-97-3
wyom	-31.5	L	41-10	191-353-1	85-188-1
TX TECH	-19	L	34-24	135-205-2	(-6)-420-3
UTEP	-36	W	64-7	304-335-3	9-44-5
COL	-34	L	38-14	46-267-2	42-85-2
okla*	-3	T	16-13	142-127-3	(-16)-327-5
mo	-13	W	41-7	131-269-1	74-99-2
okla st	-9	W	41-14	99-176-1	134-143-5
CEN FLA	-35	L	35-3	67-470-1	75-76-0
baylor	-24	W	47-14	224-187-1	6-240-3
KANSAS	-28	W	51-20	136-396-1	47-256-1
tex a&m	-21	L	49-39	293-304-1	190-342-2

TROY -ART(SUN)				(Run Yds-Pass Yds-TO)	
bowl gr	-7.5	L	14-31	41-263-2	50-339-1
florida	+37	L	6-56	73-66-3	291-372-3
UAB	-6.5	W	27-14	138-413-2	176-109-1
ark st	+2.5	W	30-27	134-373-3	70-235-3
MID TEN	-6.5	W	31-7	264-191-1	109-245-1
fla int	-9.5	L	42-33	174-391-3	38-265-1
NO TEX	-20	W	50-26	205-492-2	128-267-1
LA MON	-14	W	42-21	50-378-1	117-279-4
w ky	-24	L	40-20	201-276-0	226-196-1
ark	+13.5	L	20-56	102-353-4	187-405-1
FLA ATL	-16.5	W	47-21	168-483-3	142-206-1
la laf	-10	W	48-31	220-293-2	148-415-2

2009 POWER RATINGS

COLLEGE	Pers.	Coach	HF	COLLEGE	Pers.	Coach	HF
Alabama	54	5	4	Iowa	42	4	4
Cent Mich	35	3	3	Texas	55	3	5
Georgia Tech	47	4	3	Troy	34	4	4

2009-10 NBA SPREAD RECORDS

	Spread Record	Home Fav.	Home Dog	Score Home	Allow Home	Road Fav.	Road Dog	Score Road	Allow Road
ATLANTA	21-11	11-5	0-0	109.4	98.9	6-4	4-2	100.4	97.5
BOSTON	14-18	6-8	0-0	102.6	93.4	5-8	3-1	98.6	92.2
CHARLOTTE	19-12	7-2	3-3	95.6	89.7	0-1	9-6	89.0	95.4
CHICAGO	14-17	5-6	5-1	93.1	93.4	1-0	3-10	90.6	101.7
CLEVELAND	18-17	5-10	0-0	100.3	91.9	8-7	5-0	100.3	94.9
DALLAS	17-16	4-11	1-0	100.8	97.8	8-3	4-2	100.9	94.9
DENVER	16-17	9-6	0-0	114.0	102.3	4-9	3-2	100.9	100.8
DETROIT	14-18	5-5	3-3	90.6	92.8	1-0	5-10	92.4	98.9
GOLDEN ST	16-16	3-3	5-2	111.5	111.6	1-1	7-10	103.7	112.3
HOUSTON	20-14	6-3	4-1	102.4	99.0	3-4	7-6	98.9	99.9
INDIANA	12-20	5-4	1-6	99.1	100.6	1-0	5-10	96.6	105.4
LA CLIPPERS	14-18	4-4	3-6	93.3	96.1	0-1	7-7	98.7	101.7
LA LAKERS	14-18	10-11	0-0	105.2	96.8	4-5	0-2	101.9	98.5
MEMPHIS	19-13	6-2	5-2	102.6	99.6	1-1	7-8	105.5	109.1
MIAMI	15-16	6-9	2-2	95.9	94.2	1-1	6-4	98.2	100.8
MILWAUKEE	17-14	7-5	3-2	102.8	100.1	0-0	7-7	90.9	97.0
MINNESOTA	17-18	0-2	8-8	93.7	102.1	0-0	9-8	97.3	109.0
NEW JERSEY	11-22	0-2	6-8	90.1	99.6	0-1	5-11	90.1	101.9
NEW ORLEANS	14-17	4-6	5-1	98.9	96.7	1-2	4-8	97.1	105.1
NEW YORK	17-16	4-3	5-5	100.8	102.2	0-1	8-7	101.1	104.0
OKLAHOMA	20-13	7-3	2-4	98.3	95.1	2-1	9-5	98.4	97.7
ORLANDO	18-15	9-7	0-0	104.4	94.7	7-7	2-1	99.0	96.9
PHILADELPHIA	13-19	2-6	0-6	94.9	100.1	1-1	10-6	99.3	102.9
PHOENIX	19-15	9-6	1-0	114.6	104.8	4-4	5-5	105.5	107.9
PORTLAND	18-17	7-10	1-0	99.7	93.2	6-3	4-4	93.6	92.5
SACRAMENTO	21-12	6-2	4-6	107.5	105.4	0-1	11-3	99.3	105.5
SAN ANTONIO	17-14	10-8	1-0	104.7	95.3	6-2	0-4	98.4	96.3
TORONTO	15-19	7-3	2-4	104.4	101.5	1-1	5-11	102.4	109.4
UTAH	18-15	9-6	2-0	104.2	97.7	1-4	6-5	94.8	97.6
WASHINGTON	10-21	2-7	2-3	100.9	102.1	0-1	6-10	97.4	103.2

2009-10 NBA ROADTRIP FATIGUE LOG

This is the ultimate log for NBA handicappers who emphasize fatigue on extended road trips, as well as the "high" of returning home.

	Road Game 1	Road Game 2	Road Game 3	Road Game 4+	1st Home After Road Trip	Home Fav. 4 or less	Home Fav. 4.5-9.5	Home Fav. 10 or more	Home Dog 4 or less	Home Dog 4.5-9.5	Home Dog 10 or more	Road Fav. 4 or less	Road Fav. 4.5-9.5	Road Fav. 10 or more	Road Dog 4 or less	Road Dog 4.5-9.5	Road Dog 10 or more
ATLANTA	5-3	3-1	1-1	1-1	5-3	2-2	6-1	3-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	5-3	0-0	0-1	4-1	0-0
BOSTON	4-4	2-2	1-2	1-1	3-5	1-0	1-2	4-7	0-0	0-0	0-0	3-0	2-5	0-3	1-0	2-1	0-0
CHARLOTTE	6-6	3-0	0-1	0-0	6-5	3-1	4-1	0-0	2-3	1-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	3-2	4-2	2-1
CHICAGO	4-5	0-2	0-1	1-2	4-4	2-0	3-6	0-0	3-0	0-1	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	2-1	0-5	1-4
CLEVELAND	6-4	4-3	2-1	1-0	2-7	0-0	3-3	2-7	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-3	5-3	1-1	4-0	1-0	0-0
DALLAS	7-2	3-2	1-1	1-0	3-5	1-0	3-8	0-3	1-0	0-0	0-0	3-2	4-1	1-0	2-1	2-1	0-0
DENVER	4-4	3-1	0-2	0-4	3-4	2-0	4-2	3-4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-7	4-2	0-0	1-2	2-0	0-0
DETROIT	3-7	2-1	1-1	0-1	4-6	3-3	2-2	0-0	0-0	3-2	0-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-2	1-7	2-1
GOLDEN ST	2-6	3-2	1-1	2-2	5-2	1-1	2-2	0-0	2-0	3-2	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1	1-5	5-2
HOUSTON	4-6	5-2	0-2	1-0	7-2	1-2	5-0	0-1	4-1	0-0	0-0	2-2	1-2	0-0	1-1	5-5	0-0
INDIANA	4-5	2-3	0-1	0-1	2-7	3-3	2-1	0-0	0-4	1-2	0-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	0-4	2-6	3-0
LA CLIPPERS	5-3	1-2	1-1	0-3	5-2	4-2	0-2	0-0	1-3	2-3	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	3-1	2-4	1-1
LA LAKERS	2-3	0-3	0-1	2-0	2-3	0-0	6-3	4-8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2	3-2	1-1	0-2	0-0	0-0
MEMPHIS	5-3	2-1	0-2	1-3	5-2	0-2	6-0	0-0	2-1	3-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-2	4-4	2-2
MIAMI	5-2	0-3	1-0	1-0	3-4	2-2	4-5	0-2	2-2	0-0	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	3-1	2-3	1-0
MILWAUKEE	7-2	1-3	0-1	0-1	5-3	5-2	2-3	0-0	1-1	2-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	4-2	2-3	1-1
MINNESOTA	6-7	2-2	1-0	0-0	6-5	0-2	0-0	0-0	5-0	2-6	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1	3-3	5-4
NEW JERSEY	1-8	3-2	1-1	0-1	1-8	0-2	0-0	0-0	2-2	2-5	2-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-2	1-4	4-4
NEW ORLEANS	3-7	2-2	0-1	0-0	5-5	3-0	1-3	0-3	3-1	2-0	0-0	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-3	1-4	3-1
NEW YORK	4-4	2-4	2-1	0-0	4-2	2-2	2-1	0-0	2-2	2-3	1-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	1-4	2-2	4-1
OKLAHOMA	5-5	4-1	2-0	0-0	4-5	1-2	6-1	0-0	0-4	2-0	0-0	1-1	1-0	0-0	2-2	5-1	2-2
ORLANDO	4-3	4-2	1-2	0-1	3-3	0-1	3-3	6-3	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-3	5-4	0-0	1-1	1-0	0-0
PHILADELPHIA	5-4	2-1	2-1	2-1	1-7	0-3	2-2	0-1	0-2	0-4	0-0	1-0	0-1	0-0	2-3	3-2	5-1
PHOENIX	4-5	2-2	1-1	2-1	7-2	2-1	3-3	4-2	1-0	0-0	0-0	3-2	1-2	0-0	2-1	1-4	1-0
PORTLAND	1-5	4-0	3-0	2-2	2-4	3-0	2-7	2-3	1-0	0-0	0-0	4-2	2-1	0-0	0-2	2-2	2-0
SACRAMENTO	6-2	4-0	1-2	0-0	4-3	5-2	1-0	0-0	3-2	1-3	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	3-2	7-1
SAN ANTONIO	4-4	1-2	1-0	0-0	3-4	1-2	6-2	3-4	1-0	0-0	0-0	3-2	3-0	0-0	0-4	0-0	0-0
TORONTO	3-6	2-3	1-2	0-1	4-4	3-0	4-3	0-0	1-3	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	2-3	2-6	0-2
UTAH	2-6	1-2	2-0	2-1	6-2	2-0	6-4	1-2	2-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	1-3	0-0	3-0	1-3	1-2
WASHINGTON	5-6	1-3	1-1	0-1	3-7	1-6	1-1	0-0	1-2	1-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	2-4	4-4	0-2

NBA

Thursday, January 7

*New York over Charlotte by 5

Idle since Sunday, the Knicks have won nine of their last 14 games through Jan. 2, including beating the Bobcats 98-94 at home on Dec. 20. NEW YORK 99-94.

Friday, January 8

Orlando over *Washington by 8

The Wizards do better when playing zone rather than man-to-man defense, but the Magic have too many good shooters not to mention Dwight Howard to feed inside. Gilbert Arenas has committed 28 turnovers in his last six games going into Jan. 5. ORLANDO 107-99.

*Philadelphia over Toronto by 3

The 76ers are healthy again at guard and have depth at power forward with Elton Brand and Marreese Speights. Toronto had won five of its last six through Jan. 2. PHILADELPHIA 101-98.

*****BEST BET**

*Memphis over Utah by 11

Because the Grizzlies opened the season winning just once in their first nine games, the marketplace has been slow to reflect how improved Memphis has become. The Grizzlies are on the cusp of the Western Conference playoffs as they have 10 victories in their last 14 games through Jan. 4. Among their victims during this span are Denver, Cleveland, Dallas and Phoenix. Jamaal Tinsley has provided depth at point guard. The Grizzlies had won 14 of their first 21 games since signing Tinsley. Underrated Rudy Gay and Marc Gasol are enjoying fine seasons. MEMPHIS 109-98.

*****BEST BET**

*Atlanta over Boston by 13

This is a statement game for Atlanta. They have won 12 of their first 15 home games this season, while going 17-9 ATS as a favorite entering this month. They are significantly better than last season's playoff squad maturing as a team and getting firepower off the bench from Jamal Crawford. If you go back to last season, the Hawks are 25-12-2 at Philips Arena through Jan. 3. The Celtics are extremely banged-up missing Paul Pierce (check status) and Kevin Garnett (check status) entering the first week of this month. In addition, star point guard Rajon Rondo isn't 100 percent. ATLANTA 103-90.

*New Orleans over New Jersey by 7

Yi Jianlian is giving the forlorn Nets some hope. In his first four games back from a knee injury, Yi was averaging 22 points and seven rebounds. The Nets, though, had managed to crack the 100-point barrier just five times through December. NEW ORLEANS 101-94.

*Minnesota over Indiana by 4

The Timberwolves are 0-2 ATS the two times they've been chalk this season, but injuries have decimated the Pacers with their two best players - Danny Granger and Troy Murphy (check status) – out along with key reserve Tyler Hansbrough (check status). Indiana had lost eight of its last nine through Jan. 2. MINNESOTA 104-100.

*Milwaukee over Chicago by 1

Scott Skiles never likes to lose to the Bulls, a team he used to coach and was fired on Christmas. The Bulls, though, have been playing better since Tyrus Thomas returned after missing 22 games because of a broken arm. Thomas averaged 14 points, 12 rebounds and 2.5 blocks in his first two games back. MILWAUKEE 95-94.

*San Antonio over Dallas by 2

The Mavericks have been money in the bank on the road this season covering 11 of their first 16 away matchups. The Mavericks beat the Spurs at home in overtime, 99-94, on Nov. 18 during their previous meeting. SAN ANTONIO 93-91.

*Phoenix over Miami by 8

The Heat starts a six-game road journey. This figures to be Miami's toughest matchup of the trip, as Phoenix had won 13 of its first 16 home contests. PHOENIX 110-102.

*****BEST BET**

*Los Angeles Lakers over Portland by 18

Portland entered 2010 on a high note with seven victories in its last nine games. But after facing the Warriors, Clippers and Grizzlies, the competition gets much tougher for Portland starting with this matchup. The Trail Blazers just don't have enough healthy bodies to compete with the Lakers, especially if LaMarcus Aldridge (check status) can't play because of an ankle injury. Lakers center Andrew Bynum and power forward Pau Gasol can take advantage of Portland missing centers Greg Oden and Joel Przybilla, both out for the season. The Blazers' bench scoring is down without Steve Blake (check status), Rudy Fernandez, Travis Outlaw and Nicolas Batum. LA LAKERS 111-93.

*Golden State over Sacramento by 4

The Kings are hoping to get back shooting guard Kevin Martin some time this month. GOLDEN STATE 112-108.

*Cleveland over Denver by 3

The Nuggets were 3-9 ATS through Jan. 2 desperately missing the skills and leadership of point guard Chauncey Billups (check status). CLEVELAND 103-100.

Saturday, January 9

*Orlando over Atlanta by 3

Both of these teams were in action last night, but the Magic drew the Wizards while the Hawks hosted Boston. The Magic had no problem handling the Hawks on the road winning 93-76 on Thanksgiving, but this is Orlando's fourth game in five days. ORLANDO 97-94.

*Charlotte over Memphis by 4

The Bobcats have covered 10 of their first 15 home contests. They catch Memphis playing in its fourth game in five nights. CHARLOTTE 96-92.

*****BEST BET**

*Detroit over Philadelphia by 15

The Pistons had a brutal December entering this month 10 games under .500 for the first time since 2000-01. Detroit has been streaky all season looking like a top-four seed at times and during other long stretches appearing to be a lottery squad. But now Detroit's top guns – Richard Hamilton, Ben Gordon and Tayshaun Prince – are all healthy. So expect a bounce back. The 76ers rank near the bottom in defensive field goal percentage and in defending against the 3-point shot, which Gordon is deadly at. DETROIT 103-88.

*****BEST BET**

*Oklahoma City over Indiana by 17

The much improved Thunder is 8-2 ATS the past 11 times it has been a favorite through Jan. 3. Kevin Durant could light up the Pacers for 40 plus points. He was on a string of six straight games of 30 or more points heading into the first weekend of this month. Oklahoma City had committed 14 or fewer turnovers in eight of their last nine games going into January. The Pacers were 2-8 ATS versus Western Conference foes through the first week of January. OKLAHOMA 112-95.

*Chicago over Minnesota by 3

It's a mistake to take the Timberwolves lightly. Their front-line is very respectable. Kevin Love entered this month with 12 double-doubles in his last 14 games. His return has made Al Jefferson more dangerous. CHICAGO 96-93.

*Dallas over Utah by 7

Jerry Sloan is the coach, but the Jazz are not a Jerry Sloan team in terms of toughness. That is evident in their road play where they are 1-9 SU against winning opponents, 4-6 ATS. If Deron Williams isn't on, the Jazz are in big trouble. DALLAS 102-95.

*Houston over New York by 5

The Rockets are anxious to cut ties with Tracy McGrady. The Knicks are a team that might be interested so perhaps the Rockets might showcase their former superstar, who has played very little since returning. The Knicks are an impressive 31-14-1 ATS as a road underdog through Jan. 2. HOUSTON 105-100.

Denver over *Sacramento by 1

The Kings are worthy of respect at Arco Arena where they have won 11 of their first 17 home contests. This includes a 106-101 home victory against the Nuggets as two-point 'dogs on Dec. 28. The Kings held the Nuggets to 41.5 percent shooting from the floor. The Nuggets entered the first weekend of this month not only missing Chauncey Billups, but also Carmelo Anthony (check status), sidelined with a knee bruise. DENVER 104-103.

Sunday, January 10

Boston over *Toronto by 4

The Celtics ranked No. 2 defensively coming into 2010 allowing less than 93 points per game and had covered nine of the last 12 times versus Toronto, who they beat 103-96 at home six days ago despite missing Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Rajon Rondo. BOSTON 99-95.

*Washington over New Orleans by 3

David West is heating up for the Hornets, but New Orleans had dropped 13 of its first 15 away matchups. WASHINGTON 104-101.

*****BEST BET**

*Los Angeles Clippers over Miami by 10

Idle since Wednesday, the Clippers find themselves in a golden situational spot. Miami just got through playing at Phoenix and is at Utah on Monday. Those are the games

Dwayne Wade and Co. will be taking serious. Quietly Chris Kaman is having a big year for the Clippers averaging 20 points and shooting 51 percent from the floor. Los Angeles' defense has become respectable with Eric Gordon and shot-blocker Marcus Camby. LA CLIPPERS 97-87.

*San Antonio over New Jersey by 15

The Spurs have struggled versus elite teams, but recently have been carving up the bad ones going 8-1 ATS against foes with a losing record through Jan. 2. The Spurs are close to getting their full roster back with forwards Matt Bonner and Michael Finley (check status) ready to return from injuries. SAN ANTONIO 97-82.

Cleveland over *Portland by 5

The Cavaliers entered January winning 12 of their last 13 games and playing outstanding defense, holding more than half of those foes to under 90 points, including the Lakers, Rockets and Hawks. Cleveland hadn't allowed more than 102 points in regulation during their past 23 games through Jan. 2. CLEVELAND 95-90.

*Los Angeles Lakers over Milwaukee by 14

The Bucks' 8-3 start has become a distant memory. The Bucks opened to an easy schedule and opponents lacked scouting reports on rookie guard Brandon Jennings. After a sizzling first month, Jennings has cooled off considerably shooting just 37 percent from the field during December. LA LAKERS 103-89.

Monday, January 11

*Philadelphia over New Orleans by 3

Andre Iguodala is a scorer, but when he posts a string of 18 assists and zero turnovers like he did in the last two December games, the 76ers become dangerous. Elton Brand isn't what he used to be, but he gives Philadelphia bench strength which is something the Hornets lack. PHILADELPHIA 95-92.

Toronto over *Indiana by 2

Until Danny Granger (check status) returns, the Pacers are a tough team to back. The Raptors have improved a leaky defense that was yielding nearly 106 points per game. They held their last five December opponents to an average of 89.8 points per game. Jarrett Jack has done a solid job holding down the fort at point guard until Jose Calderon (check status) returns from a hip injury. TORONTO 102-100.

*Boston over Atlanta by 3

Much depends on the status of Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett. The Celtics were at the Hawks on Friday. The Hawks upset Boston, 97-86, as a nine-point road 'dog in mid-November with Pierce and Garnett in the lineup. BOSTON 95-92.

*Chicago over Detroit by 2

The Pistons entered January having lost and failed to cover nine straight games. Detroit, though, finally appears healthy and has double-revenge against the Bulls. CHICAGO 94-92.

*Oklahoma City over New York by 4

This could turn into a surprising defensive struggle. The Knicks have gone under in 10 of their last 13 games through Jan. 2 with the number ranging from 194 to 202, meager totals by Mike D'Antoni standards. The Knicks have held 11 of their last 14 opponents to less than triple-digits through Jan. 2. OKLAHOMA CITY 96-92.

****PREFERRED**

*Phoenix over Milwaukee by 21

The Bucks have been a major mess since right before Thanksgiving losing 15 of 20 games through Jan. 4. Milwaukee lost its last four December games by an average of 15.5 points. Bucks coach Scott Skiles isn't sure if Andrew Bogut and Michael Redd are the right answers because his team's defensive chemistry has been abysmal. The Suns were 8-3 ATS when playing on two days rest. The Bucks didn't reach the West Coast until Saturday and are playing for the third time in four nights. PHOENIX 116-95.

****PREFERRED**

*Utah over Miami by 15

The Jazz have been tough in Salt Lake City covering eight of their last 10 home contests through Jan. 3. Utah hasn't forgotten being embarrassed at Miami less than three weeks ago. Playing in their fifth road game in eight days, the Jazz lost to the Heat, 80-70. It was Utah's lowest point production of the season. Now it's Miami that faces fatigue issues playing for the fourth time in six days. UTAH 104-89.

*Denver over Minnesota by 8

Don't look for Denver to take Minnesota lightly after the Timberwolves shocked them at the Pepsi Center, 106-100, in late November. The Timberwolves were 12-6 ATS when getting points. DENVER 108-100.

Cleveland over *Golden State by 3

The Warriors can get more physical and have some inside scoring with Andris Biedrins and Ronny Turiaf joining Anthony Randolph instead of just relying on forays to the basketball by Monta Ellis. The Cavaliers were at Portland last night, while Golden State has been idle since Friday. CLEVELAND 114-111.

Tuesday, January 12

****PREFERRED**

Detroit over *Washington by 8

Gilbert Arenas could be facing gun charges and the Wizards were 3-10 ATS in their last 13 home games through the first week of this month. DETROIT 102-94.

Houston over *Charlotte by 6

The Rockets have covered 11 of the past 17 times when matched against a foe with a losing record through the first week of January. HOUSTON 99-93

*Memphis over Los Angeles Clippers by 4

The Clippers figure to be more competitive than the last time they visited Memphis, a 106-91 loss to the Grizzlies on Nov. 18. The Clippers had problems with Marc Gasol as the Grizzlies made 54.3 percent of their shots from the floor. Los Angeles was missing Eric Gordon in that matchup, though. MEMPHIS 101-97.

Los Angeles Lakers over *San Antonio by 3

The Spurs have yet to show this season they can beat top-notch opponents. The Heat is the only above .500 foe the Spurs have defeated in their last six matchups against winning clubs through Jan. 7. LA LAKERS 101-98.

Orlando over *Sacramento by 3

The Magic are playing for the third time in four nights as it begins a four-game West Coast trip. The Kings were 18-9-1 ATS in their last 28 games through Jan. 4. ORLANDO 103-100.

Wednesday, January 13

*Philadelphia over New York by 1

If Nate Robinson's 41-point scoring burst at the beginning of the month was for real, the Knicks have some backcourt offense to go with their improved front-court defense. PHILADELPHIA 99-98.

*Atlanta over Washington by 8

The Hawks are going to have to maintain their focus for this rest stop having just played Boston, Orlando and Boston again with Phoenix up next. ATLANTA 107-99.

Phoenix over *Indiana by 9

The Pacers have failed to cover in eight of their last 10 games versus Western Conference foes through Jan. 7. PHOENIX 118-109.

Boston over *New Jersey by 8

The Nets were only 4-8 ATS in their past 12 home contests through January 4. BOSTON 96-88.

****PREFERRED**

*New Orleans over Los Angeles Clippers by 15

The Clippers were 2-4-1 ATS the past seven times when playing in the second of back-to-back games. New Orleans had won 11 of its last 12 home contests through the first week of this month. NEW ORLEANS 106-91.

*Oklahoma City over San Antonio by 1

The Thunder nipped the Spurs, 101-98, in mid-November at San Antonio. At the time it seemed like a big upset but not anymore. OKLAHOMA CITY 98-97.

*Houston over Minnesota by 10

This only will be Houston's second home game this month. The Rockets were 10-4 ATS in their first 14 home contests. HOUSTON 101-91.

Los Angeles Lakers over *Dallas by 2

The teams just met 10 days ago. Going into that matchup the road team was 8-0-1 ATS in the series. LA LAKERS 103-101.

****PREFERRED**

*Denver over Orlando by 8

The Nuggets catch the Magic playing its fourth game in six days. Nene and Chris Andersen can slow down Dwight Howard. The difference is at the free throw line where the Nuggets ranked first sinking nearly 80 percent of their free throws. The Magic rated last making less than 72 percent of its charity tosses. DENVER 104-96.

*Portland over Milwaukee by 5

The Trail Blazers are running out of players, but have revenge for a 108-101 overtime loss suffered in Milwaukee a month ago. PORTLAND 96-91.

*Golden State over Miami by 3

The Heat is likely to face fatigue issues against the racehorse Warriors playing in its fourth consecutive road contest. The Warriors, on the other hand, are in the middle of a two-week homestand. GOLDEN STATE 113-110.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Thursday, January 7

****PREFERRED**

LaSalle* over Xavier by 5

Last season's 36-9 free throw disparity favoring Xavier is still ringing in LaSalle's ears and stuck in their craws. The final score that night was 73-55 for the then-home Musketeers, who for the most part haven't looked so hot on the road this season and whose over-the-top make rate of 41.8% on 3-pointers is due to regress during A-10 conference play. LASALLE, 74-69.

South Alabama* over Western Kentucky by 3
Florida Atlantic* over Troy by 2
Cleveland State* over Loyola-Chicago by 5
Illinois-Chicago over Youngstown State* by 3
Northeastern* over George Mason by 9

GMU is young this season, Northeastern is kind of veteran, although their bench is inexperienced. Mason's spotty 3-point shooting is the key because Northeastern's long-armed zone won't let 'em near the hoop. NORTHEASTERN, 64-55.

Penn State* over Michigan by 7

Talor Battle can break down Michigan's 1-3-1 zone and put the Wolverines in a familar position in their road games -- behind, scrambling to come back and praying that Penn State clangs their free throws as usual. PENN STATE, 69-62.

UL-Monroe over Florida International* by 5
Arkansas State* over Middle Tennessee by 5
North Texas over UL-Lafayette* by 10

UL-Lafayette has lost to an NAIA team at home this season, as well as to Centenary, the smallest school in D-1 which is targeting a move to D-III. Home crowds are dwindling. Therefore, if you lay it with North Texas ("They can score on anyone," says one Sun Belt coach) and the Mean Green doesn't cover, you'll have a new least favorite bunch o' bums. NORTH TEXAS, 79-69.

Denver* over New Orleans by 12

Georgia transfer Billy Humphery is beginning to score a little to help New Orleans, but they're gonna need three more like him if they want to sustain anything. DENVER, 65-53.

CS Northridge* over Cal-Irvine by 9
Long Beach State over CS Fullerton* by 1

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Friday, January 8

Wright State* over Butler by 5

Good defensive home team has double-revenge. Wright was wronged by 16 and 18 points by Butler last season. WRIGHT STATE, 60-55.

Detroit* over Valparaiso by 7

"They scouted us good, they knew every play we were going to run," said a Valpo player after a recent loss at Horizon League foe Wisconsin-GB. Roll that tape, Detroit coaching staff. DETROIT, 62-55.

Arizona* over Washington State by 2

Klay Thompson is the guy opponents want to make life miserable for when they face Washington State. If Arizona could play defense, then they could make him miserable. But they don't have it down yet. Mr. Bone's road dogs are in with a big shot. ARIZONA, 74-72.

St. Mary's over San Francisco* by 11
Pacific over Cal Poly-SLO* by 8

****PREFERRED**

Arizona State* over Washington by 10

Inconsistency in the zone offense will hurt the Huskies. When ASU gets hot from three-point range, you don't want to be trailing them on the scoreboard because they milk those possessions, a tack that burns score-hungry foes like Washington. Smokin' Herb's home boys don't turn it over much. ARIZONA STATE, 74-64.

Cal-Santa Barbara* over UC Davis by 10

UCSB's offense has an opportunity to grind it out if they play their usual decent defense against a junk visitor battling injury woes. CAL-SANTA BARBARA, 67-57.

*****BEST BET**

San Diego over Santa Clara* by 18

There weren't many non-conference schedules tougher than San Diego's. Last time they met Santa Clara, the Broncos handed them an embarrassing home defeat during USD's trouble-filled 2008-09 season. The slate to date should make this contest feel like playing downhill for the visiting Toreros, a good defensive team facing a home team with only 10+ assists per game and an assist to turnover ratio of almost -6. Santa Clara leading scorer Kevin Foster has been out awhile and even if he returns, the time he missed would have been too valuable leading into conference season. SAN DIEGO, 68-50.

Saturday, January 9

Georgetown* over Connecticut by 6

UConn's shaky free-throw shooting and so-so three-point game would seem to make them too risky a pick on the road against a well-balanced, quality conference foe. GEORGETOWN, 67-61.

Northeastern over Georgia State* by 5
North Carolina State* over Virginia by 14
Louisville* over St. John's by 15

'We will wear you down,' says the Louisville press and up-tempo mode and St. John's knows that before they even get on the plane. LOUISVILLE, 80-65.

Vanderbilt* over Florida by 6

Vandy is certainly not one of our favorite teams but their overall size and balance on offense figures to give Florida some problems. But Vandy's negative turnover ratio is embarrassing for a team with its so-called talent, which is why we hesitate to lay points with them against halfway decent well-coached opponents. VANDERBILT, 80-74.

Auburn* over South Carolina by 5

Visitor has been battling injuries. When you're shooting only 43% before SEC season begins, you can't afford to be missing guys. AUBURN, 76-69.

*****BEST BET**

Mississippi* over Mississippi State by 20

For Ol' Miss, two guards averaging 17 ppg, each shooting better than 38% from three-point range, trumps more spread-out scoring by Mississippi State players who you can dare to step it up in SEC season. MSU won the SEC Tournament that nobody else really cared about, so they're overrated from the get-go, especially as they continue to mix in some new big players who figure to be more of a step backwards for the moment, with the possibility of peaking in March. MISSISSIPPI, 79-59.

Wisconsin* over Purdue by 1
Texas* over Colorado by 18
Duke over Georgia Tech* by 2

Tech certainly has the size to trump the Dukies and keep them farther away from the hoop than they want to be. But do they have the smarts and the shooters? Or the ball-handling, in the absence of injured point guard Shumpert? We'll see. DUKE, 71-69.

*****BEST BET**

Dayton* over Duquesne by 21

The visiting bench doesn't see much floor time, and when you're on the road in this building in that scenario, this season's version of the Flyers figures to make you pay for the shallow bench. Duquesne wants an up-tempo game against a sloppy, mediocre opponent but that's not what's in store in this match-up against a home team with a deep bench and multiple competent ball-handlers. Duquesne's free-throw percentage of 59% is begging to be exploited. Duquesne's Damian Saunders gets 12.9 rebounds per game. More than half of them are offensive boards. That means his teammates miss a lot of shots. DAYTON, 72-51.

Villanova* over Marquette by 16

Early-rehook from a close game last week won by Villanova. Marquette won't fare as well this time around. VILLANOVA, 85-69.

James Madison* over Towson by 2
Harvard* over Dartmouth by 12
Wisconsin-Milwaukee* over Wisconsin-GB by 1
Ohio* over Kent State by 8
Wichita State* over Creighton by 9
Ball State* over Northern Illinois by 7

****PREFERRED**

Central Michigan over Toledo* by 7

Toledo has some shooters on the squad and are best-suited to play a zone on D. Central Michigan hits barely 40% from the field as a team, but Harman and Blitzer are hitting 44% and 50% from three-point range. Aha. CENTRAL MICH, 68-61.

Missouri State* over Bradley by 10
Minnesota* over Ohio State by 15
Utah* over TCU by 4

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

New Mexico* over UNLV by 5
George Mason* over NC Wilmington by 14

****PREFERRED**

Drexel* over William & Mary by 9

No place to go but down for the Tribe of William & Mary, who beat Wake Forest and Maryland in non-conference season and have already won on the road at Hofstra. Drexel is better defensively, probably taking a trey by this time. DREXEL, 65-56.

Old Dominion* over Hofstra by 10

Hofstra guard Charles Jenkins thinks he's a superstar, but superstars don't repeatedly try to take CAA guards off the dribble and fail miserably half the time. OLD DOMINION, 69-59.

Texas A&M* over Nebraska by 11
Illinois State* over Northern Iowa by 8
Western Michigan* over Eastern Michigan by 12
Buffalo* over Miami-OH by 4
St. Joseph's* over Fordham by 16
Kentucky* over Georgia by 14
Clemson* over Boston College by 8
South Alabama* over Arkansas State by 5
Central Florida* over Rice by 2
Saint Louis* over Richmond by 3
LSU* over Alabama by 8
Cleveland State* over Illinois-Chicago by 10
Michigan State over Iowa* by 8
UCLA over Stanford* by 4
San Diego State over Wyoming* by 1
Cincinnati over Seton Hall* by 1

The time to be on Seton Hall was during non-conference season. They play lousy defense inside, so Cincy's big man Yancy Gates should have a night while point guard Vaughn penetrates at will. However, Gates in a high-possession game that Seton Hall likes is a good bet for foul trouble early, so beware of that. CINCINNATI, 77-76.

Miami-FL* over Wake Forest by 2
Baylor* over Oklahoma by 8
NC Charlotte* over St. Bonaventure by 9
Cal Riverside* over CS Fullerton by 6
East Carolina* over Marshall by 1
Akron* over Bowling Green by 16
Youngstown State* over Loyola-Chicago by 1
Florida Atlantic* over UL-Monroe by 3

****PREFERRED**

Houston* over Tulsa by 11

Tulsa has to prove it can win a road game against an opponent with quickness that can score the basketball. They play passive defense, and will be facing a lot of pressure from the Houston bunch that leads the nation in steals. With an obvious target in the 7-footer Jordan, the Cougars can overplay him and dare some of the Tulsa fakers to hit enough shots to beat them. Last season's late-season meeting was 40-17 in free throw attempts for Tulsa as the tired Houston team "fouled relentlessly" at midcourt. In this building, with a freshjer team, those are steals. HOUSTON, 78-67.

Southern Illinois* over Drake by 20

Drake is the dregs, baby. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS, 60-40.

Long Beach State* over Cal Irvine by 9
Providence* over Rutgers by 8
Notre Dame* over West Virginia by 8

Harangody should be able to bull his way around in the paint against a tough but not tall West Virginia bunch, which keeps the defense honest. NOTRE DAME, 78-71.

Indiana* over Illinois by 1
Memphis over Southern Miss* by 5
UAB over Tulane* by 7
Oklahoma State* over Texas Tech by 3
Troy over Florida International* by 9
North Texas* over New Orleans by 15
Arkansas-LR* over Middle Tennessee by 8
Idaho* over Louisiana Tech by 3
Boise State* over New Mexico State by 9

Long awaited 6-6, 225 junior Wendell McKines has returned with nice results for NMS, but they beat Utah State, home, with a rotation of essentially six players. On the road? No, thanks. BOISE STATE, 78-69.

UTEP* over BYU by 8

Randy Culpepper's range will force BYU to extend the defense. UTEP has license to mug people in this building and will take a good offensive team out of its rhythm in hopes that the BYU kids start whining a little or a lot in the strange, non-conference place. UTEP, 80-72.

Colorado State* over Air Force by 7
Gonzaga over Portland* by 5
Pepperdine* over Loyola Marymount by 1
Hawaii* over Fresno State by 6
Nevada over San Jose State* by 1

The visitor has triple-revenge and 21-point scorer. Plus, Nevada has one of the shallowest benches in the sport. Look out, now. NEVADA, 70-69.

California* over USC by 15

The Gerrity kid transferred to USC, the point guards' third collegiate team…and the NCAA has ruled that the Trojans cannot play in the post-season. Ha-ha, they play joke. But the joke will be on road dog backers if Cal uses its quickness against a USC team that lets down off the bad news. CALIFORNIA, 80-65.

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Sunday, January 10

Xavier over George Washington* by 12
Rhode Island* over Temple by 3

RIU shouldn't be laying points to anyone opponent that can score the ball better than average. RHODE ISLAND, 80-77.

Butler over Detroit* by 10
Indiana State* over Evansville by 5

ISU point guard Jake Kelly is out for the season. Watch out for turnovers leading to empty possessions for a favorite that can't afford many. INDIANA STATE, 69-64.

Syracuse* over South Florida by 21

USF head coach Stan Heath arranged a 20-win schedule this season and this was not one of the Ws. SYRACUSE, 84-63.

LaSalle over Massachusetts* by 2

"The difficult thing for me is Year 2 is more like Year 1. I'm looking at it from that point of view; let's get better every practice, every shootaround, every game, and see where we fall." Not the most encouraging thing you want to hear from the coach of your home favorite that lost twice to Lasalle last season, eh? LA SALLE, 76-74.

Michigan* over Northwestern by 6
Denver* over Western Kentucky by 2
Arizona State* over Washington State by 8
Wright State* over Valparaiso by 12
Kansas over Tennessee* by 9

How to ruin your depth: Recruit bad kids and have them go on a crime spree with each other. Vols will probably have to overcome suspensions to four kids who average 10-20 minutes per court appearance, er, game. KANSAS, 68-59.

Cal Poly-SLO* over Cal-Davis by 5
Washington over Arizona* by 6
Maryland* over Florida State by 10

Size doesn't always matter. Everybody knows FSU is much bigger, but Maryland head coach Gary Williams can put a small lineup on the floor that the lumbering Seminoles can't keep up with. MARYLAND, 76-66.

Cal-Santa Barbara* over Pacific by 4
North Carolina* over Virginia Tech by 7
San Diego over San Francisco* by 7
St. Mary's over Santa Clara* by 14
Oregon* over Oregon State by 6

If Ducks' guard Porter was a true finisher instead of kinetic chucker, he'd dribble-penetrate and mess up the 1-3-1 trap OSU loves to employ. OREGON, 69-63.

Monday, January 11

Louisville* over Villanova by 9

Not too many guards can get physical with the Nova bunch, but Louisville is an exception to the rule and with Samuels down low, Little Ricky's team has an extra edge against smaller 'Nova forwards. LOUISVILLE, 71-62.

Oklahoma* over Oklahoma State by 5

You might catch the Sooners as a home pup, despite being the better defensive team. OKLAHOMA, 70-65.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Utah State* over Hawaii by 15
Boise State* over Louisiana Tech by 6
Fresno State* over San Jose State by 2
Idaho* over New Mexico State by 8

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Added-board action on the Web for Winning Points Ultra-Sharp members!

Tuesday, January 12

Kansas State* over Texas A&M by 10
Florida State* over North Carolina by 5
Better defensive team as home underdog? FLORIDA STATE, 76-71.
Miami-OH* over Kent State by 3
Purdue* over Ohio State by 10
Hofstra* over VCU by 5
Hofstra uses their size edge well vs. VCU. Their big stiffs find a way to be useful even though they can't score much. HOFSTRA, 60-55.
TCU* over Wyoming by 7
Missouri State over Drake* by 8
Drake is the dregs, baby. MISSOURI STATE, 65-57.
Wake Forest* over Maryland by 12
Away from home against a big team is a different story for the Terps than it probably was going to be when they were home vs. Florida State because Wake will demand a game with more possessions than turtle tempo Seminoles. WAKE FOREST, 82-70.
Baylor over Colorado* by 2
Illinois* over Penn State by 7
Northern Iowa* over Bradley by 14
Florida* over Kentucky by 7
True road game in conference season, vs. seasoned, experienced head coach in wait for this, is a natural slip-up spot for Kentucky. FLORIDA, 74-67.

Wednesday, January 13

Michigan State* over Minnesota by 9
Connecticut* over Pittsburgh by 2
West Virginia over South Florida* by 7
Virginia Tech* over Miami-FL by 7
Duke* over Boston College by 6
You'd love to be able to say that since BC lost to Harvard and Maine that they'll get crushed by Duke, except that there are plenty of college hoop historiala precedents that suggest otherwise. Trust Al Skinner to have been real as far as you can throw Coach K. DUKE, 74-68.
Northeastern* over Delaware by 18
A 29% make rate on treys, and a -4 Assist to Turnover Ratio, spells doom for Delaware against the rugged Northeastern zone. NORTHEASTERN, 68-50.
Towson* over Drexel by 5
Clang, clang, clang. TOWSON, 59-54.
Cincinnati over St. John's* by 5
The Red Drip! Losing the Big East home opener to lousy Providence by 15 points! The ESPN and CBS talking numbies talking up St. John's as a Big East sleeper! Yes! Asleep! As usual! Ha-ha! CINCINNATI, 71-65.
Memphis* over East Carolina by 17
Old Dominion over NC Wilmington* by 5
Wichita State over Indiana State* by 7
Eastern Michigan* over Toledo by 2
Ohio* over Akron by 5
Central Michigan* over Ball State by 3
Saint Louis over Duquesne* by 1
The visitor is young, young, young but Duquesne doesn't go very deep. SAINT LOUIS, 64-63.
George Mason* over Georgia State by 15
Virginia* ovver Georgia Tech by 3
Lasalle* over George Washington by 7
Richmond* over Massachusetts by 15
UMass head coach Derek Kellogg figures to have his team very uncranked for a non-conference road game sandwiched in between the A-10 home game vs. Lasalle, and the A-10 look-ahead at Temple. Team assist leader Ricky Harris has more turnovers than assists. RICHMOND, 78-63.

Rhode Island* over St. Joseph's by 8
Xavier* over NC Charlotte by 10
Syracuse over Rutgers* by 12
Western Michigan over Northern Illinois* by 7
Marshall over Central Florida* by 3
Illinois State* over Evansville by 14
BYU over Air Force* by 12
Temple over Penn* by 21
Texas over Iowa State* by 8
The Iowa State house of cards should be on its way down as the calendar reveals that Big 12 season is here, while everyone continues to bet on them because they hear there is an "NBA player" on the team. Brackins is a softie and Texas kids matching up against him are not. TEXAS, 76-68.

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LSU at South Carolina
Things are floating around out there and if they come together as anticipated, then expect a Pick of the Day forecast and selection for Winning Points Online members on the Web on game-day!

Mississippi over Georgia* by 8
Tulsa over SMU* by 9
Tulane* over Rice by 2
Houston* over UTEP by 4
Wisconsin over Northwestern* by 9
Nebraska* over Kansas by 1
Better defense as home underdog? Kansas has been great at out-scoring people during "exhibition season." What's up, Doc? NEBRASKA, 69-68.
Southern Illinois over Creighton* by 1
Texas Tech* over Missouri by 5
Clemson* over North Carolina by 4
They'll storm the court as if it meant something but Purnell doesn't give them much, so forgive them. CLEMSON, 81-77.
Vanderbilt over Alabama* by 2
Road team will make it more difficult than it needs to be if 'Bama gets physical with them. They really don't like that at all, especially the overrated big man Oglivy who stands 6-11 but plays 6-6. VANDERBILT, 71-69.
Dayton over Fordham* by 21
New Mexico* over Utah by 11
UNLV* over San Diego State by 5
Nevada* over Utah State by 2

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BASKETBALL POWER RATINGS

Explanation: Below is a list of all major college teams. They are ranked according to strength of their personnel (P), their coaching (C), rated 1 to 5 points, as well as their homecourt edge (H), ranging from 3 to 7 points. Add all three to get the power rating for the home team. Add the personnel plus the coaching rating to get the power rating for the visitors.

Adjustments: If the home team is favored, reduce their homecourt advantage by 1 point if the matchup is either an in-state rivalry or a conference game (see example 2). The final "line" you calculate is the predicted outcome!

Example 1: Florida (81+5=86) at Arizona (76+4=80). The Gators are rated as a six point favorite against Arizona, but Arizona's' homecourt (H) advantage of 4 makes Florida only a two point favorite. If the game was played at Florida (homecourt edge of 5), then the Gators would be favored by 11 points.

Example 2: Arkansas (72+4=76) at Georgia (70+3=73). The Bulldogs are ranked as 3 point underdogs vs. Arkansas, but their homecourt (H) advantage of 4 rates them as a one point favorite vs. Arkansas. (In conference games, reduce all margins by one point).

	P	C	H
Air Force	66	4	6
Akron	76	4	4
Alabama	76	5	4
Arizona	76	4	4
Arizona St.	81	5	5
Arkansas	72	4	5
Arkansas St.	68	2	4
Arkansas-LR	65	4	4
Auburn	76	4	4
Ball St.	64	3	3
Baylor	84	4	4
Boise St.	68	3	5
Boston College	75	4	4
Bowling Green	69	2	4
Bradley	71	3	5
Brown	61	3	3
Buffalo	72	4	5
Butler	85	5	5
BYU	85	4	5
Cal Davis	66	3	4
Cal Irvine	65	3	3
Cal Poly-SLO	64	4	3
Cal Riverside	68	4	4
Cal Santa Barb	68	5	5
California	84	5	4
Central Florida	75	4	4
Central Mich	66	4	4
Cincinnati	81	5	5
Clemson	83	2	5
Cleveland St.	73	4	4
Colorado	70	4	4
Colorado St.	68	4	5
Columbia	65	3	3
Connecticut	82	5	5
Cornell	76	4	5
Creighton	73	5	5
CS Fullerton	65	4	4
CS Northridge	66	3	5
Dartmouth	57	3	3
Dayton	78	4	5
Delaware	63	4	4
Denver	66	4	5
DePaul	69	4	4
Detroit	70	4	4
Drake	65	4	4
Drexel	69	4	5
Duke	93	4	6
Duquesne	74	4	4
East Carolina	66	4	4
Eastern Mich	64	3	4
Evansville	67	4	4

	P	C	H
Florida	81	5	5
Florida Atlc	66	4	4
Florida Intl	59	1	3
Florida St.	83	4	4
Fordham	57	4	2
Fresno St.	70	4	5
George Mason	76	5	5
George Wash	72	4	4
Georgetown	82	5	5
Georgia	70	3	4
Georgia St.	68	5	4
Georgia Tech	81	3	4
Gonzaga	83	5	5
Harvard	75	3	4
Hawaii	65	3	6
Hofstra	72	2	4
Houston	78	2	4
Idaho	69	4	4
Illinois	80	4	5
Illinois St.	78	4	5
Illinois-Chi	65	4	4
Indiana	71	4	4
Indiana St.	69	4	4
Iowa	71	4	4
Iowa St.	77	4	4
James Madison	68	4	4
Kansas	94	5	5
Kansas St.	83	4	5
Kent St.	74	4	4
Kentucky	87	4	5
LaSalle	72	4	4
Long Beach St.	73	4	4
Louisiana Tech	76	4	5
Louisville	86	5	4
Loyola Marymt	65	4	4
Loyola-Chi	66	4	4
LSU	74	4	4
Marquette	84	4	5
Marshall	77	4	4
Maryland	78	5	5
Massachusetts	72	4	4
Memphis	86	4	5
Miami-FL	81	4	5
Miami-OH	73	5	4
Michigan	77	5	5
Michigan St.	88	5	5
Middle Tenn	67	3	4
Minnesota	85	5	4
Mississippi	84	4	5
Mississippi St.	83	2	5
Missouri	89		

	P	C	H
Missouri St.	76	4	4
NC Charlotte	75	4	5
NC Wilmington	64	3	4
Nebraska	76	5	4
Nevada	77	4	4
New Mexico	82	4	5
New Mexico St.	67	3	5
New Orleans	59	4	4
North Carolina	87	5	5
NC State	77	4	4
North Texas	67	4	4
Northeastern	72	4	5
Northern Ill	63	2	4
Northern Iowa	80	4	4
Northwestern	76	4	4
Notre Dame	78	4	4
Ohio	74	4	4
Ohio St.	82	5	4
Oklahoma	77	5	5
Oklahoma St.	79	5	4
Old Dominion	78	4	4
Oregon	77	3	5
Oregon St.	72	4	4
Pacific	71	5	5
Penn	57	3	3
Penn St.	79	4	4
Pepperdine	60	3	3
Pittsburgh	85	5	5
Portland	72	4	5
Princeton	67	3	4
Providence	74	4	4
Purdue	87	4	5
Rhode Island	78	5	4
Rice	66	4	4
Richmond	77	4	5
Rutgers	72	4	4
Saint Louis	69	5	4
San Diego	67	4	4
San Diego St.	78	4	4
San Francisco	67	3	4
San Jose St.	68	4	4
Santa Clara	60	4	4
Seton Hall	80	4	4
SMU	64	3	4
South Alabama	69	4	4
South Carolina	76	4	4
South Florida	74	4	4
Southern Illinois	72	4	5
Southern Miss	68	4	4
St. Bonaventure	70	4	4
St. John's	74	4	3

	P	C	H
St. Joseph's	69	5	5
St. Mary's	82	4	5
Stanford	74	2	4
Syracuse	89	5	5
TCU	69	4	4
Temple	81	4	4
Tennessee	83	5	5
Texas	89	4	5
Texas A&M	81	4	5
Texas Tech	76	3	5
Toldeo	60	4	4
Towson	63	3	4
Troy	71	4	5
Tulane	70	4	4
Tulsa	78	4	4
UAB	81	2	4
UCLA	75	5	5
UL-Lafayette	64	4	4
UL-Monroe	61	3	4
UNLV	78	5	5
USC	79	4	5
Utah	74	3	5
Utah St.	78	5	5
UTEP	80	4	5
Valparaiso	67	4	5
Vanderbilt	84	4	5
VCU	79	4	5
Villanova	87	4	5
Virginia	78	4	4
Virginia Tech	81	5	4
Wake Forest	82	4	4
Washington	80	3	4
Washington St.	77	4	5
West Virginia	85	5	5
Western Ky	76	4	5
Western Mich	68	4	4
Wichita St.	78	4	4
William & Mary	74	4	4
Wisconsin	86	5	5
Wisconsin-GB	72	4	4
Wisconsin-Mil	70	3	4
Wright St.	80	5	5
Wyoming	69	4	5
Xavier	84	4	4
Yale	63	4	4
Youngstown St.	67	4	4

EXPLANATION: The NBA teams are ranked from 100 downwards. Their homecourt edge is either 2, 3, 4, or 5 points.

"INTANGIBLE" ADJUSTMENT: If the home team is favored in a national TV contest, reduce their homecourt advantage to only 2 points.

NBA

	PR	HC
Atlanta	95	4
Boston	95	4
Charlotte	87	3
Chicago	85	2
Cleveland	96	4
Dallas	93	3
Denver	94	3
Detroit	86	4
Golden St	84	3
Houston	92	3
Indiana	84	3
LA Clippers	84	2
LA Lakers	97	4
Memphis	88	2
Miami	88	3
Milwaukee	86	3
Minnesota	83	2
New Jersey	79	2
New Orleans	86	3
New York	86	3
Oklahoma City	88	2
Orlando	96	4
Philadelphia	84	3
Phoenix	94	4
Portland	88	4
Sacramento	86	3
San Antonio	92	3
Toronto	86	3
Utah	89	4
Washington	84	2