



THE GOLD SHEET EXTRA!!!

...featuring the Technical Report

TGS EXTRA!!! "PDF"

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THE TGS EXTRA!!! PLAYS OF THE WEEK

PURDUE

Purdue has been one of the nation's hottest pointspread teams since the middle of last season and will seek to continue that trend at Ann Arbor when visiting Michigan Saturday afternoon. The Boilermakers, a featured play in the Power Underdog system this week, have covered their last 6 outings in '03 and are now an eye-opening 11-2 vs. the line their last 13 games on the board. And please note the Wolverines' troubles in recent years as a short-to-intermediate favorite (3-7 points) under HC Lloyd Carr, notching a poor 2-12 spread their last 14 in that role.

MINNESOTA

Why buck a good thing? Or, in the case of Illinois, not buck a bad thing? Whatever, the Fighting Illini have been in complete retreat the past several weeks, dropping their last five pointspread decisions in '03. And things don't look to get any better with potent Minnesota visiting Champaign-Urbana Saturday afternoon. The Golden Gophers have been reliable road favorites lately, covering all three chances in that role in '03, continuing a positive trend for HC Glen Mason (he's 7-2 as road chalk since '98). Note that Minnesota has also won and covered 3 of the last 4 in this series, all wins by 21 or more.

BOISE STATE

Now, that's more like it! Boise State, struggling to overcome big numbers earlier in the season, got back into a familiar groove last weekend with a dominating win at SMU. It's likely to be more of the same on the home blue carpet of Bronco Stadium when hosting San Jose State Saturday night. Recent meetings between these two have been bloody affairs-for the Spartans, that is, outscored a whopping 101-14 the past two years vs. Boise. Going back a bit further, please note the Broncos' impressive 17-6 home chalk mark since 1997.

HAWAII

After an uncharacteristic pointspread slump, Hawaii appears to be back to its old self, winning and covering its last two outings in explosive fashion while recording an impressive +13.25 AFS (Away From Spread) mark in the process. That's all good news for the Warriors when they entertain UTEP Saturday night at Aloha Stadium. And Hawaii has literally feasted upon the Miners in their recent visits, winning and covering in UTEP's last 4 visits to the islands by a whopping 41 ppg margin! And please note the Miners' extended pointspread woes on the road (5-15 vs. line last 20 as visitor).

TENN.-J'VILLE "OVER"

The Tennessee offense has been hot, hot, hot the past few weeks, scoring 30 or more in 4 straight, with the Titans going "over" the total their last three. And there's little reason to expect anything different than another "over" when HC Jeff Fisher's squad travels to Alltel Stadium for a battle against Jacksonville Sunday afternoon. As for the Jags, they have been an "over" team for the past few years at home, going "over" 15-8-1 their last 24 as host.

NFL TICKER

FANTASY NOTES AROUND THE NFL

by Bruce Marshall, TGS EXTRA!!! Editor

Baltimore Ravens...It was a tough day at the office last Sunday for the Ravens, who lost 34-26 at Cincinnati. Baltimore needed 2 late TDs (and a pair of 2-point conversions) to even get that close. But at least rookie QB Kyle Boller began to post some impressive consolation numbers, firing 3 TD passes in a 302-yard passing day (his best as a pro). TGS sources indicate that HC Brian Billick has stripped the Raven playbook down to short, quick throws or deep passes to limit the rookie's decision-making process. The concern in Ravenland is that star RB Jamal Lewis (100 YR+ in last five games) could start wearing down soon unless a more effective aerial diversion is uncovered.

Chicago Bears...Lots of offensive injuries for the Bears, though, surprisingly, the side has played competitively in recent weeks. QB Kordell Stewart's leg injury forced veteran Chris Chandler into the starting lineup last week at Seattle. Chandler was serviceable but was reluctant to look downfield, instead dinking away, with wideout Dez White (6 catches, but only 35 yards) his favorite target in the absence of injured WR Marty Booker. Many Chicago fans were wondering if HC Dick Jauron might instead opt for Florida rookie Rex Grossman at QB, though Jauron chose otherwise. A foot injury also sidelined RB Anthony Thomas, giving Adrian Peterson the start at Seahawks Stadium (he gained 55 YR).

Cleveland Browns...Just when it appeared as if QB Tim Couch had supplanted Kelly Holcomb as the starter, Couch regressed last week against the Chargers, throwing a pair of picks as the Browns fell far behind (23-6) in the 3rd quarter. Holcomb entered late in that stanza and proceeded to toss 2 short TD passes in the 4th Q, but it wasn't enough in a 26-20 defeat. The early deficit forced the Browns to go away from their recently humming ground game. RB William Green, averaging 130 YR the previous two weeks, gained only 65 YR last week.

Denver Broncos...With QB Jake Plummer out another 3-4 weeks with a broken foot, HC Mike Shanahan has been forced to alter his gameplan. That's because vet reliever Steve Beuerlein lacks Jake's mobility. So many of the rollouts and moving pockets that Shanahan installed this year for Plummer will not be utilized often in his absence. Beuerlein then suffered a dislocated right pinky finger against the Vikings last week and had to be replaced by Danny Kanell, who didn't fare too badly with the Broncos in desperate catch-up mode, completing 12 of 18 passes as Denver made a late run at the Metrodome. In Plummer's absence, veteran TE Shannon Sharpe is emerging as a go-to receiver, as his short and intermediate routes appear better suited to Shanahan's non-Plummer gameplans.

Houston Texans...A useful fantasy pickup might be RB Domanick Davis (rookie from LSU), who has supplanted ex-Jaguar Stacey Mack as the Texans' featured RB. Davis rambled for 129 YR and caught 9 passes in his first start, against the Jets, last weekend. Miami Dolphins...QB Jay Fiedler has never been a fantasy star, and things aren't much different this season. Critics continue to point out that Fiedler (only 6 TDP in '03) has trouble with the deep passing game, negating the potential fantasy effectiveness of WRs like Chris Chambers and James McKnight. Imagine, too, what a credible deep passing game might do for RB Ricky Williams, who is regularly seeing opponents stack the line of scrimmage against him in recent weeks. He did gain 94 YR last week vs. the Patriots, but needed a whopping 27 carries to get there.

New Orleans Saints...The Saints have been a streaky team under HC Jim Haslett, but finally might be putting things together in '03 after back-to-back wins, the latest a 45-17 mauling of depleted Atlanta at the Georgia Dome last week. QB Aaron Brooks' fantasy owners are perking up considerably after the ex-Virginia ace recorded by far his best effort of '03 (23-30 for 352 YP, 3 TDs & 0 ints.) in the rout. WR Joe Horn, who had been having a so-so season, had

what might turn out to be a real breakout performance vs. the Falcs (8 catches for 133 yards and a 32-yard TD catch from Brooks).

Philadelphia Eagles...Philly wideouts continue to be MIA fantasy performers and will likely stay that way as long as battered QB Donovan McNabb labors with an aching thumb. McNabb's injury makes even the most-basic tosses difficult and has negated his ability to look deep downfield. After completing a mere 11 passes at Dallas Oct. 12, McNabb completed just 9 last weekend at the Meadowlands vs. the Giants (those two efforts mark McNabb's lowest completion totals since 2000). Washington Redskins...Steve Spurrier's troops are regressing fast after a quick break from the gate in September. The losing streak has reached 3 straight after last weekend's limp 24-7 loss at Buffalo. The offense has completely bogged down, gaining only 169 yards against the Bills. Poor pass protection has been an ongoing concern, as QB Patrick Ramsey has absorbed numerous beatings in recent weeks and has now been sacked 19 times this season. The Trung Candidate-less running game has been sputtering, too, gaining only 56 yards against the Buffalo defense last week.

TECHNICIAN'S CORNER

COLLEGE

MARYLAND at GEORGIA TECH (Thursday, October 23)...Ralph no covers last 4 as visitor in reg.-season play. He's only 1-4 vs. spread in '03 after 19-6 mark previous two seasons. Chan heating up with upset wins and covers last two in '03. Tech edge-slight to GT, based on team trends.

SYRACUSE at PITTSBURGH...Pasqualoni no SU wins or covers last 5 as Big East visitor. But Pitt a highly unreliable 2-10 vs. spread as chalk since '02 (1-4 in '03). Tech edge-slight to Pittsburgh, based on Pasqualoni road woes.

RUTGERS at TEMPLE...Rutgers 7-0 vs. line in '03! Though Scarlet Knights have lost 4 in a row SU vs. Temple. Owls 3-7 vs. line last 10 as host. Visiting team is 12-5 vs. line last 17 Owl games on board. Tech edge-Rutgers, based on recent trends.

PURDUE at MICHIGAN...Purdue has covered last 6 in '03 and is now 11-2 vs. spread since mid '02. Lloyd only 2-12 vs. number laying 3-7 points since '00, however (0-2 in '03). Tech edge-Purdue, based on team trends.

OHIO STATE at INDIANA...Buckeyes 0-5 vs. spread as visitor since '02. Tressel also 2-6 vs. line as road chalk since arriving in '01, and he's 3-9 laying DDs that span. But DogNardo just 1-10-1 vs. line last 12 on board! Tech edge-OSU, based on DogNardo negatives.

WISCONSIN at NORTHWESTERN...UW is 3-0 vs. line as road chalk in '03. Cats just 4-10 vs. line at Evanston since '01 (1-2 in '03). Tech edge-slight to UW, based on recent trends.

MINNESOTA at ILLINOIS...Illini no wins or covers last 5 in '03, now 1-6 vs. line in '03, 0-3 as host. Mason has won and covered 3 of last 4 vs. Ron Turner (wins by 21 or more), and he's 3-0 vs. line as road chalk in '03 (7-2 in role since '98). Tech edge-Minnesota, based on team and series trends.

WAKE FOREST at FLORIDA STATE...Wake had covered 4 straight vs. FSU before Noles won and covered LY (though that 13-point margin was closest game between these teams since FSU joined ACC in '92). Grobe 8-2-1 vs. line as road dog since arriving at Wake in '01 (2-0 this season). Tech edge-Wake, based on team and extended series trends.

VANDERBILT at SOUTH CAROLINA...SC had covered 8 of last 9 in series until Vandy covered LY's game at Nashville. Dores 0-5 vs. line at Williams-Brice since Cocks joined SEC in '92. Vandy 1-6 vs. line as visitor under Bobby Johnson (since '02) and 2-9 vs. spread as road dog since '01. Dores 1-4 vs. spread last 5 in '03. Tech edge-SC, based on series trends and Vandy negatives.

OHIO at BUFFALO...Buff. now 1-7-1 vs. line last 9 as host, 3-10-1 vs. spread last 14 overall. Though Bulls have covered last 3 vs. Bobcats including hard-to-believe 44-0 punishment of Ohio in '01! Tech edge-slight to Ohio, based on Buff negatives.

NC STATE at DUKE...Note that visitor has covered last 6 meetings in this Tobacco Road series. But Wolfpack no covers last 4 in '03. Devils no covers last 4 at home in '03 and now 1-5 overall vs. spread in '03. Tech edge-NCS, based on series and team trends.

UAB at GEORGIA...Watson Brown has covered last 3 in '03. Blazers 21-9 vs. number as dog since '99. Tech edge-UAB, based on team trends.

MARSHALL at WESTERN MICHIGAN...Broncos 0-9 vs. line last 9 at Waldo! Though Herd just 5-12-1 vs. spread laying DDs since '00 (0-2 in '03). Tech edge-slight to Marshall, based on WMU's Waldo woes.

TEXAS TECH at MISSOURI...TT 10-2 vs. line last 12, 13-4 vs. spread last 17 on board dating to '02. Tech edge-slight to TT, based on recent trends.

TOLEDO at BALL ST....Rockets 6-1 vs. spread on MAC road since '02. Amstutz also 7-1 vs. line as chalk since LY. Tech edge-Toledo, based on team trends.

MIAMI-OHIO at KENT STATE...Flashes just 1-5 vs. spread at home since '02 (1-1 in '03, however). But RedHawks 13-5 vs. line away since '01 (5-2 as road chalk that span) and have covered 5 of last 6 in '03. Tech edge-Miami-O, based on team trends.

PENN STATE at IOWA...Iowa has covered 4 of last 5 tries vs. Shades. Hawkeyes have covered their last 7 overall at Nile Kinnick Stadium (3-0 v.s. number at Iowa City in '03) and Ferentz is 29-12 vs. spread last 41 on board! Also 12-3 as home chalk since '01! Tech edge-Iowa, based on team and series trends.

LOUISVILLE at EAST CAROLINA...Pirates 0-3 vs. line as host under J Thompson in '03, now a poor 5-13 vs. spread at Greenville since '00. Tech edge-UL, based on ECU woes.

ARKANSAS at OLE MISS...Rebs have covered last 3 in '03. Nutt just 8-17 vs. line last 25 as favorite (2-2 in '03). Tech edge-slight to Ole Miss, especially if dog, based on team trends.

KANSAS at KANSAS STATE...This has been an automatic KSU go-with for several years, as Wildcats have won and covered last 9 in series and have usually taken no prisoners, last 5 wins all by 39 or more! KSU 27-11-1 as home chalk since '97. Tech edge-KSU, based on series trends.

MEMPHIS at TULANE...UM 6-13 vs. spread as visitor since '00. Though Tigers 5-1-1 vs. spread last 7 in this series. Tech edge-UM, based on series trends.

SOUTH FLORIDA at SOUTHERN MISS...Golden Eagles 3-2 vs. line last 5 in '03, halting extended spread downturn (2-12-1 previous 15 on board). Tech edge-slight to USF, based on team trends.

SMU at TULSA...Tulsa 4-1 vs. line last 5 in '03. Though SMU has won SU 7 meetings since teams joined WAC in '96! Mustangs 1-6 vs. line in '03, now 5-14 vs. spread overall (2-7 as road dog) since Bennett took over in '02. Tech edge-Tulsa, based on recent trends.

TEXAS at BAYLOR...Texas has won last 5 SU vs. Baylor and has really roughed up Bears lately, covering last 2 and 3 of last 4, all wins by 34 or more. Bully Mack has covered all 3 laying 20 or more in '03 and is 4-0 last 4 in role. Tech edge-Texas, based on Horns' bully tendencies.

NOTRE DAME at BOSTON COLLEGE...BC has won SU 3 of last 4 and covered 4 of last 5 vs. ND. O'Brien a subpar 1-2 vs. line at home in '03 after 18-5 spread mark as host previous 4 years. Eagles 20-7 vs. number last 27 as chalk. Ty 2-9 vs. line last 11 on board since late '02. Tech edge-BC, based on team and series trends.

NORTH CAROLINA at CLEMSON...Heels have covered their last 5 as visitor (4 of those as dog). Tech edge-UNC, based on recent road-in-Heel pattern.

TENNESSEE at ALABAMA...Road series deluxe, visitor covering 9 of last 10, including Vols covering last 5 as series visitor. Though Vols just 1-6 vs. spread last 7 on board overall. Tide just 1-4 vs. line last 5 in '03. Tech edge-UT, based on series road trend.

IOWA STATE at NEBRASKA...NU has won and covered last 5 vs. Cyclones at Lincoln. ISU 1-10 vs. spread last 11 on board overall. McCarney 3-7 vs. spread as visiting dog since '01. Tech edge-Nebraska, based on recent ISU woes.

OKLAHOMA STATE at TEXAS A&M...Note that home team has covered last 4 series meetings. Still, A&M just 3-10-1 vs. number last 14 at Kyle Field. Pokes 12-4 vs. spread last 16 on board overall! Tech edge-OSU, based on recent team trends.

OKLAHOMA at COLORADO...Buffs no covers last 5 in '03. Tech edge-OU, based on recent trends.

STANFORD at OREGON...Keep in mind that during OU's late-season nosedive in '02, the only game Ducks won and covered was vs. Tree (and easily, at that). UO no covers last 3 in '03, and Bellotti just 5-13 vs. number last 18 at Eugene. Tech edge-slight to Stanford, based on extended UO home negatives.

SOUTHERN CAL at WASHINGTON...Trojans have covered last 3 vs. UW, though note they've only won SU twice in Seattle since 1979 (2-8-1 SU last 11 visits). But Pete is 11-2 vs. line his last 13 on board! Note UW 5-1 as home dog since '95, however. Tech edge-SC, based on recent team and series trends.

ARIZONA at CAL...Note Cats have covered last 3 in '03 and they have covered last 2 years vs. Bears. Cats still 11-5 vs. spread as road dog since '00. Tech edge-Arizona, based on team trends.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS at BOWLING GREEN...NIU 8-2 vs. spread its last 10 as visitor. Novak 6-1 vs. line as dog since '02 and 47-23-1 last 71 on board overall! BGSU only 4-5 vs. spread last 9 as host. Tech edge-NIU, based on team trends.

ARMY at CINCINNATI...Army 4-2 vs. spread last 6 as visitor. Army has also covered all 3 meetings vs. Cincy since '98 (though didn't face '99 or '02). Minter no covers last 3 as chalk in '03. Tech edge-slight to Army, based on team trends.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN at CENTRAL FLORIDA...Golden Knights 0-6 vs. line in '03, 0-7 last 7 on board! Tech edge-slight to CMU, based on recent UCF woes.

LA TECH at NEVADA...Wolf Pack 13-5-1 vs. spread last 19 on board (4-1 in '03). Pack 5-2 vs. line as chalk since '01. LT 2-1-1 vs. spread away in '03 but extended visitor mark 3-9-1 since late '01. Tech edge-slight to Nevada, based on team and series trends.

OREGON STATE at WASHINGTON ST....Cougs no covers last 3 in Pullman, all as chalk. Beavs have covered last 3 in series though note teams didn't meet in '02. Tech edge-slight to OSU, based on WSU's recent home/road patterns.

MISSISSIPPI STATE at KENTUCKY...Jackie 2-7 vs. spread as visitor since '02. He's also mere 3-10 vs. line in once-formidable dog role since '02. UK has covered its last 5 in '03 and is 18-6 vs. line last 24 on board overall. Cats also covered last 2 years vs. Bulldogs. Tech edge-UK, based on team trends.

NEW MEXICO at UTAH...Urban Meyer 7-0 vs. spread in '03. Note that home team has won and covered last 4 years in this MWC series. Tech edge-Utah, based on team and series trends.

BYU at UNLV...Rebs have covered last 3 and 5 of last 6 vs. BYU. Tech edge-slight to UNLV, based on team trends.

RICE at FRESNO STATE...Host has covered last 4 meetings, including one-sided Fresno wins at Dog House. Kenny only 8-13-1 vs. line as visitor since '00 and 3-6 getting DDs away that span. Tech edge-FSU, based on series home trend.

AUBURN at LSU...Note that home team has won and covered last 3 meetings after road team had won and covered previous 4! Auburn has won and covered last 4 in '03 and is now 8-1 vs. line as visitor since '02! Tuberville also 6-1 vs. line as dog since LY (1-0 in '03). Tech edge-Auburn, based on recent Tuberville dog marks.

TCU at HOUSTON...Identical scores of 34-17 favoring TCU the past two years (both Frog covers). Frogs only 2-8 vs. line last 10 reg.-season games, 1-8 last 9 as chalk! Tech edge-slight to UH, based on recent team trends.

SAN JOSE STATE at BOISE STATE...Boise has destroyed SJSU past two years, 56-6 & 45-8! Tech edge-Boise, based on series trends.

WYOMING at SAN DIEGO STATE...SDSU 3-0-1 vs. line last 4 years in series but that was BJG (before Joe Glenn). Aztecs 4-13 vs. spread as host since '00, 8-19 since '98, 9-22 last 31 as host! Wyo has covered last 4 in '03. Tech edge-Wyo, based on recent team trends.

UTEP at HAWAII...UTEP has covered 3 in a row but Miners have been destroyed in recent visits to Honolulu, 0-4 SU and vs. line last 4, average loss 41 points! UTEP extended road dog mark 5-15 since '00 (3-10 as DD road dog). Tech edge-Hawaii, based on series trends. ARIZONA STATE at UCLA...ASU has covered 4 of last 5 meetings. Bruins 2-9 vs. spread last 11 at Rose Bowl. Tech edge-slight to ASU, based on team and extended series trends.

AKRON at UCONN...UConn 20-8 overall vs. spread since '01, also 7-2 as chalk since LY. Tech edge-UConn, based on team trends.

TROY STATE at VIRGINIA...Troy solid 10-6 vs. line as road dog since '01 (2-2 in '03). Groh 10-3 vs. spread last 12 at home. Tech edge-slight to Groh, based on recent trends.

ARKANSAS ST. at UTAH STATE...ASU no covers last 4 in '03. Ags are 5-2 vs. spread last 7 at Logan on board. Tech edge-slight to USU, based on team trends.

IDAHO at UL-LAFAYETTE...If Vandals chalk, note their 0-5 spread mark in role since '01! Tech edge-slight to ULL, if dog, based on Idaho chalk mark.

NORTH TEXAS at MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE...UNT 12-3 vs. spread its last 154 Belt games. Also 10-4 vs. spread last 14 as chalk. Tech edge-UNT, based on Mean Green Belt mark.

NEW MEXICO STATE at UL-MONROE...NMSU just 5-17 vs. spread last 22 games on board. Tech edge-slight to ULM, based on recent trends.

NFL

CLEVELAND at NEW ENGLAND...NE on a nice roll, 5-0-1 vs. line last 5 in '03. But Browns 2-1 vs. line away in '03, now 10-2 vs. spread last 12 as visitor. Tech edge-Browns, based on team trends.

DENVER at BALTIMORE...Billick 3-0 SU and vs. line last 3 years vs. Broncos. Billick 0-2 vs. line as dog in '03 after 19-7-3 mark in role '99-02. Tech edge-slight to Ravens, based on series trends.

ST. LOUIS at PITTSBURGH...Steel 3-10 vs. spread last 13 at Heinz Field. Rams 4-0-1 vs. line last 5 in '04 but please note 2-9 spread mark as visitor last 11 away. Tech edge-slight to Rams, based on recent trends.

SEATTLE at CINCINNATI...Holmgren 8-3 vs. number last 11 on road. Tech edge-slight to Seahawks, based on team trends.

DETROIT at CHICAGO...Last 4 in series "under" the total. 4 of last 5 in series decided by exactly 3 points! Bears 7-15 vs. number last 22 on board overall. Tech edge-Lions and "under," based on team and "totals" trends.

NY GIANTS at MINNESOTA...Vikings 6-0 SU and vs. line in '03 and now 10-2 vs. spread last 12 dating to late '02. Though Giants are 2-1 vs. line as dog in '03 and 8-2 vs. line in role since '02. Tech edge-slight to Vikings, based on recent trends.

TENNESSEE at JACKSONVILLE...Titans won and covered both meetings LY. Tenn. also "over" last 3 in '03, Jags "over" 15-8-1 last 24 at Alltel. Tech edge-"Over" and slight to Titans, based on "totals" and recent series trends.

DALLAS at TAMPA BAY...Tuna has won and covered last 5 in '03. Tuna 2-

0 vs. line as dog in '03, now 21-5-2 vs. spread last 28 as dog (Jets & Cowboys). Bucs 0-2 SU and vs. line at home in '03. Tech edge-Tuna, based on team trends.

CAROLINA at NEW ORLEANS...Road team has covered last 4 series meetings. Panthers 7-3 vs. line away under Fox (since '01). Tech edge-Panthers, based on team and series trends.

SAN FRANCISCO at ARIZONA...Cards only 1-5 vs. line in '03, no covers last 3. Cards "under" 2-1 at home in '03, now "under" 10-3 last 13 at Tempe. 49ers "under" last 5 in '03. Tech edge-"Under," based on "totals" trends.

NY JETS at PHILADELPHIA...Eagles 0-3 vs. line at new home field in '03. Note Jets "under" 5-1 first 6 in '03, now "under" 25-15 since Herm took over in '01. Tech edge-"Under," based on "totals" trends.

HOUSTON at INDIANAPOLIS...Houston "over" 5-1 in '02, Indy "over" last 3 in '03. Colts won and covered both meetings LY (both "under"). Indy 5-1 vs. line in '03, 2-1 at home. Tech edge-"Over" and slight to Colts, based on recent "totals" and team trends.

BUFFALO at KANSAS CITY...Bills "under" last 5 and 6 of 7 in '03, now "under" 15-2 last 17 on board. Chiefs 5-1 vs. line in '03, now 18-7-2 last 27 on board dating to late '01. Tech edge-Chiefs and slight to "under," based on team and "totals" trends.

MIAMI at SAN DIEGO (Monday, October 27)...Dolphins 3-0 SU and vs. line away in '03 after 2-6 performance away LY. Dolphins also "under" last 4 in '03. Tech edge-Dolphins and "under," based on team and "totals" trends.

EXTRA POINTS College Football Report

INTO COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S ABYSS...

by Bruce Marshall, TGS EXTRA!!! Editor

We have long maintained that football analysts would be better-served by spending more time seeking out go-against squads than most other handicapping exercises. That's because, year after year, we find numerous sides going on extended pointspread losing streaks. And those losing teams are usually not very hard to identify.

The one caution in the "go against" exercise is to be sensitive about pointspread adjustments, as well as quick turnarounds by the losing squads. Those teams in the most distress are usually identified in our AFS (Away From Spread) "minus" list that can be found each week in our Systems Spotlight feature. And, of course, a quick consultation of the latest pointspread streaks, both winning and losing, can also be found each week in the Spotlight.

Following is a list of college squads that appear to be stuck in the quicksand. Several of them are already in "freefall" mode; others could be joining them soon. SMU (0-7 straight up, 1-6 vs. line)...The young Ponies have been so bad that they've almost dropped off the college football radar screen. The excessive youth movement in Dallas (HC Phil Bennett has no fewer than 60 true frosh or redshirt frosh in the program) is likely the root of the current misery. But make no mistake, the Mustangs are bad. Ranking last in total offense nationally, SMU has few attack options other than bruising RB Keylon Kincaide. Enemy defenses are now stacking up to slow him down, but Pony QBs Richard Bartel & Tate Wallis have been unable to compensate. The result is an anemic attack tallying a puny 9.8 ppg and undue pressure on what was a serviceable defense earlier in the campaign.

Illinois (1-7 SU, 1-6 vs. line)...Illinois has quickly descended into non-competitive status in the Big Ten, and no turnaround appears imminent. HC Ron Turner has already started a youth movement of sorts, hardly endearing him to those upperclassmen who are now losing playing time to many untested frosh, RS frosh, and sophs. If that weren't bad enough, the one credible weapon in the Illini arsenal, QB Jon Beutjer, is suffering from a back injury and missed the latest Illinoi beating a week ago at Michigan.

Central Florida (2-5 SU, 0-6 vs. line)...What has happened to the Golden Knights? True, the shoulder injury that kept sr. QB Ryan Schneider out for a few games didn't help matters. But even he had been looking shaky in '03, and he couldn't turn things around when returning to the lineup last week at Akron. Mostly, though, UCF has been in a debilitating self-destruct mode, reflected in a staggering -17 TO margin after last week's loss at the Rubber Bowl. So sloppy have the Golden Knights been that HC Mike Kruczek has come under intense fire from the normally-passive UCF supporters.

Colorado (3-4 SU, 1-6 vs. spread)...Those six spread losses have come in a row for the underachieving Buffaloes, who, like Central Florida, have often been their own worst enemy in '03 (CU has a -12 TO margin). Defense, or lack thereof, has been a bigger problem, however (Bufs have allowed 42 or more in their last 5 games-first time that's happened to Buffs since Chuck Fairbanks' wretched 1980 squad), and has CU supporters scratching their heads and wondering why HC Gary Barnett's supposedly solid recruiting has failed to uncover any playmakers on the defensive side.

Others...Iowa State has dropped 5 straight against the line, and 10 of its last 11 since late in the '02 campaign. The Cyclones badly miss the leadership graduated QB Seneca Wallace provided the past few years, but that doesn't explain a defense that's imitating Colorado (allowing 49 ppg last 3!). Arkansas State has also had all sorts of unexpected defensive problems (allowing 47 ppg last 4) as it has dropped 4 straight against the line. That no-defense theme would also apply to collapsing Tulane (no covers last 3), whose young, injury-ravaged stop unit has allowed a startling 52 ppg its last 3 outings. San Diego State's (no covers last 3) problems are on the other side, as the stagnating Aztec "O" has tallied 10 or fewer in 3 of the last 4 SDSU games.

SYSTEMS SPOTLIGHT

COLLEGE SYSTEM PLAYS THIS WEEK

COACH & POINTSPREAD-MARYLAND@ over Georgia Tech, ARIZONA STATE over UCLA, BOISE STATE over San Jose State, BOSTON COLLEGE@ over Notre Dame, UCONN over Akron, HAWAII over UTEP, IOWA@ over Penn State, IOWA STATE over Nebraska, KANSAS STATE@ over Kansas, NC STATE@ over Duke, NORTH TEXAS over Middle Tenn. State, NORTHERN ILLINOIS over Bowling Green, SOUTH FLORIDA over Southern Miss.

COLLEGE COACH AS UNDERDOG-ARKANSAS* over Ole Miss, COLORADO over Oklahoma, NOTRE DAME@ over Boston College, TEXAS A&M over Oklahoma State, UAB over Georgia, WAKE FOREST over Florida State.

RIVALRY DOGS-DUKE@ over NC State, KANSAS@ over Kansas State, and dog in Arkansas-Ole Miss game.

POWER UNDERDOGS-ALABAMA over Tennessee, AUBURN@ over LSU, BYU over UNLV, COLORADO over Oklahoma, NOTRE DAME@ over Boston College, OREGON STATE over Washington State, PENN STATE@ over Iowa, PURDUE over Michigan, TEXAS A&M over Oklahoma State, WASHINGTON over Southern Cal, and dog in Arkansas-Ole Miss game.

PAINFUL MEMORY-TENNESSEE over Alabama, BOSTON COLLEGE@ over Notre Dame, COLORADO over Oklahoma, BYU over UNLV, LSU@ over Auburn.

POWER REVENGE-TENNESSEE over Alabama.

IMPOTENT FAVORITES-UL-LAFAYETTE over Idaho, RUTGERS over Temple, ARKANSAS STATE@ over Utah State.

RESTED HOME WINNERS-GEORGIA TECH@ over Maryland, NORTHWESTERN over Wisconsin.

STREAKBUSTERS-TCU over Houston**, UL-LAFAYETTE over Idaho, MEMPHIS over Tulane, KENTUCKY over Mississippi State**, MIDDLE TENN. over North Texas**, WASHINGTON STATE over Oregon State**, UTAH STATE over Arkansas State, VANDERBILT over South Carolina**, WASHINGTON over Southern Cal, NORTHWESTERN over Wisconsin**, NOTRE DAME@ over Boston College** (**Streakbuster "go-against" teams).

"AFS" (Away from Spread last two decisions vs. line)...PLUS (+): Mia-O + 24.75, CSU 24.50, Az St 21.50, Mich St 21.50, Navy 21.50, Nev 20.75, Miss 20.25, Okla 20.25, GT 18.00, NMex 17.75, Fla 16.25, Mem 16.00, Mizz 15.00, UAB 15.00, Utah 13.75, Haw 13.25, Wyo 12.75, VT 12.50, SoCal 11.75, Aub 11.75, Utep 11.25, Ohio 10.50, Az 10.00. MINUS (-): Ore -27.00, BYU 23.50, Ill 23.00, Fresno 21.25, Tex 21.00, Tenn 17.50, SDS 17.00, Ark St 16.75, UCF 16.75, Cincy 16.00, Hou 15.75, Bay 14.50, UNLV 14.50, Rice 14.00, SMU 13.75, NMSU 12.00, So Car 12.00, Marsh 11.50, Ark 10.75, Temp 10.75, Pitt 10.50, USU 10.25.

Pointspread streaks...WINS: 7-Rut, Utah; 6-Pur; 5-Ky, MichSt; 4- Aub, TT, Wyo; 3-Az, CSU, Mia-O, Miss, Navy, Nev, So Cal, UAB, UTEP, Army 2-0-1 last 3; 2-Az St, Clem, Fla, GT, Haw, Kent ST, ULM, Mia-F, Mich, MTSU, Mizz, NM, NC, Tol. LOSSES: 6-UCF, Colo.; 5-Ill, ISU; 4-Ark St, NCS, Penn St.; 3-Marsh, NMSU, Ore, SDSU, SMU, Tenn, Tulane, UNLV, ECU & Fresno 0-2-1 last 3; 2-Ark, BYU, Cincy, Fla St, Idaho, Ind, LT, Minn, Pitt, So Car, Temple, WMU.

NFL SYSTEM PLAYS THIS WEEK

FAMILIARITY-CHICAGO# over Detroit, NEW ORLEANS@ over Carolina, ARIZONA over San Francisco.

NFL COACH AS DOG-CLEVELAND over New England, DALLAS over Tampa Bay, PITTSBURGH* over St. Louis, and dog in Denver-Baltimore game.

NFL BLOWOUT LETDOWN-JACKSONVILLE over Tennessee, TAMPA BAY@ over Dallas.

NFL BLOWOUT BOUNCEBACK-No plays this week.

SCORE 40 LETDOWN-CAROLINA over New Orleans.

*-If underdog. #-If dog, pick, or 1-point favorite. @-May conflict with other tech system(s). For preferred TGS EXTRA!!! recommendation, consult Technician's Corner and/or Tech Plays of Week. Line moves after Sunday night can alter selections in certain systems.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2003

POWER UNDERDOGS/PAINFUL MEMORY teams to be charted in 2003 include Air Force, Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Boise State, Boston College, BYU, Clemson, Colorado, Colorado State, Florida, Florida State, Fresno State, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas State, LSU, Louisville, Marshall, Maryland, Miami-Fla., Michigan, Ole Miss, Nebraska, NC State, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Oregon, Oregon State, Penn State, Pittsburgh, Purdue, Southern Cal, Tennessee, Texas, Texas A&M, TCU, Texas Tech, UCLA, Utah, Virginia Tech, Washington, Washington State, and Wisconsin.

POWER REVENGE teams include Florida, Florida State, Kansas State, Miami-Fla., Michigan, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Southern Cal, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia Tech.

IMPOTENT FAVORITES for 2003 include Army, Baylor, Buffalo, Central Michigan, Duke, Eastern Michigan, Houston, Idaho, Indiana, Kent State, La.-Lafayette, La.-Monroe, Rutgers, SMU, Temple, Tulsa, Utah State, UTEP, Vanderbilt, and Wyoming.

COACH & POINTSPREAD coaches for 2003 include Dirk Koetter, Arizona State; Dan Hawkins, Boise State; Tom O'Brien, Boston College; Randy Edsall, UConn; June Jones, Hawaii; Kirk Ferentz, Iowa; Dan McCarney, Iowa State; Bill Snyder, Kansas State; Ralph Friedgen, Maryland; Chuck Amato, NC State; Darrell Dickey, North Texas; Joe Novak, Northern Illinois; Jim Leavitt, South Florida; and Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech.

COLLEGE COACH AS UNDERDOG coaches for 2003 include Fisher DeBerry, Air Force; Houston Nutt, Arkansas; Rick Minter, Cincinnati. Gary Barnett, Colorado; Sonny Lubick, Colorado State; Randy Edsall, UConn; Pat Hill, Fresno State; June Jones, Hawaii; Kirk Ferentz, Iowa; Terry Hoepfner, Miami-Ohio; Chuck Amato, NC State; Ty Willingham, Notre Dame; Bob Stoops, Oklahoma; Walt Harris, Pitt; Dennis Franchione, Texas A&M; Watson Brown, UAB; Al Groh, Virginia; Jim Grobe, W. Forest; and B. Alvarez, Wisconsin.

NFL 2003

NFL COACH AS UNDERDOG coaches for 2003 include Brian Billick, Baltimore; Butch Davis, Cleveland; Bill Parcells, Dallas; Mike Shanahan, Denver; Dick Vermeil, Kansas City; Bill Belichick, New England; Andy Reid, Philadelphia; Bill Cowher, Pittsburgh; Jon Gruden, Tampa Bay; and Jeff Fisher, Tennessee.

YARDSTICKS

COLLEGE—2003 TO DATE

	1-3	3½-6½	7-13½	14-over	TOTAL
HOME FAVORITES	4-11	21-26	22-34	55-60	102-131
ROAD FAVORITES	20-11	12-10	20-26	19-13	71-60
FAVORITES-UNDERDOGS*	24-23	35-36	42-60	74-74	175-193

COLLEGE—LAST WEEK

	1-3	3½-6½	7-13½	14-over	TOTAL
HOME FAVORITES	0-1	4-5	2-2	6-3	12-11
ROAD FAVORITES	4-1	3-2	2-4	4-4	13-11
FAVORITES-UNDERDOGS*	4-2	7-7	4-6	10-7	25-22

NFL—2003 TO DATE

	1-3	3½-6½	7-13½	14-over	TOTAL
HOME FAVORITES	13-12	13-11	5-9	2-4	33-36
ROAD FAVORITES	9-4	10-2	1-1	0-0	20-7
FAVORITES-UNDERDOGS*	22-16	23-13	6-10	2-4	53-43

NFL—LAST WEEK

	1-3	3½-6½	7-13½	14-over	TOTAL
HOME FAVORITES	1-2	2-3	0-0	1-1	4-6
ROAD FAVORITES	3-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	3-2
FAVORITES-UNDERDOGS*	4-3	2-4	0-0	1-1	7-8

*NOTE: 1st # Favorite winners; 2nd # Underdog winners. Example: In the 3-6 point range in the NFL last week, the Favorites won 4 while the Underdogs won 3. Games at neutral sites also appear here.



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