



FRIDAY UPDATE!

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THE UPDATE ADVANTAGE—The Gold Sheet *UPDATE* is designed and intended to provide the reader with the most important pregame information that comes into our office from Tuesday through Friday. It is, literally, an update of The Gold Sheet, designed to be used in tandem with it. We feel all of the information is pertinent not only to each week's games, but also cumulatively, as the season progresses. Information that is especially new or vital, and should be reviewed immediately, is underlined for your convenience. This is THE *UPDATE ADVANTAGE*.

WEATHER NOTES: *The remnants of Hurricane Ivan are expected to continue to produce widespread showers and some windy conditions in the eastern third of the nation through Saturday and possibly Sunday. Officials involved with several games in the southeast and east are monitoring the situation (heavy rain, swollen rivers, outages, etc.), with changes in game times, etc. still possible as of early Friday afternoon.*

FOR A DETAILED FORECAST FOR A SPECIFIC LOCATION, TRY THE WEATHER CHANNEL AT www.weather.com, AND ENTER THE CITY OF YOUR INTEREST. YOU CAN GET AN HOUR-BY-HOUR FORECAST THAT INCLUDES WIND, TEMPERATURE, CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION IN THE AREA—AND EVEN DOPPLER RADAR.

COLLEGE FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Connecticut at BOSTON COLLEGE (-7; 47½)—Massive starting LT Jeremy Trueblood (NFL prospect) of BC is questionable with a knee injury.

COLLEGE FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

San Diego State at MICHIGAN (-20½)—Star RB Lynell Hamilton is out for S.D. State with a sprained ankle.

Western Michigan at ILLINOIS (-8)—The starting QBs for both teams are questionable. Illinois sr. QB Jon Beutjer has a bruised sternum. If Beutjer is unable to start, he still might play, but the start will go to 6-2 RS frosh Brad Bower, who was 11 of 15 with 1 int. off the bench in last week's 35-17 loss vs. UCLA. WMU starter Blayne Baggett has sore ribs and is not expected to start, but might be available. The Bronco starter is likely to be jr. Ryan Cubit, who has previous starting experience at Rutgers.

Kent State at RUTGERS (-12½)—

Central Florida at PENN STATE (-23)—RB Austin Scott, suspended last week, returns for Penn State.

Duke at VIRGINIA TECH (-27½)—First ACC league game for Virginia Tech. The thin Blue Devils can't seem to avoid the injury jinx. New players out this week are starting RB Cedric Dargan, sr. WR Senterrio Landrum, sr. starting CB Kenneth Stanford, backup def. lineman Brian Sallee, and punt returner Jamin Pastore. Duke previously lost its starting DEs and projected top WR; now down six starters since the start of spring.

Maryland at WEST VIRGINIA (-6½; 47½)—WV starting RB KayJay Harris remains questionable with a strained hamstring. QB Rasheed Marshall (sore back), is expected to start. For Maryland, RB Josh Allen (banged up) is expected to play but might not be 100%. WR Danny Melendez (5 recs. 1st 2 games) is out this week (hamstring). Possible wet weather.

Indiana at KENTUCKY (-1½)—Indiana coach Gerry DiNardo is attributing his team's somewhat surprising 2-0 start to greater experience and depth. For the first time in his 3 years at the school, the Hoosiers have the full complement of 85 scholarship players. IU has 18 starters back TY, and a roster of players with a combined 30,000 game snaps, way up from the previous two years. Scouts in Kentucky report HC Brooks intends to shake up his OL (only 2 starters back) after the Wildcats rushed for only 66 yds. in the opening day 28-0 loss at Louisville. Possible wet weather.

Vanderbilt at MISSISSIPPI (-7; 43½)—6-6, 218 soph Ethan Flatt (5 of 12 and a TDP last week at Alabama) gets his first start this week for Ole Miss. Quick jr. Michael Spurlock (only 16 of 46 TY) has had problems running the Rebels' balanced offense.

Marshall at GEORGIA (-18½; 47½)—Emerging true frosh RB Danny Ware of the Bulldogs is out at least one game with a bruised lung. Georgia coach Mark Richt says jr. backup QB D.J. Shockley will play against Marshall, based on a pre-determined rotation for the game. Shockley, a talented runner/passer mobile QB, DNP in last week's 20-16 come-from-behind Georgia victory at South Carolina. The Bulldogs trailed 16-0 in the second Q in that game, and Richt says he needed to let Greene (3 TDs, 1 int. TY) work through his early slow start. Greene later threw 2 TDP in the second H to win the game. Quick true frosh RB Ahmad Bradshaw of Marshall (17 for 77 rushing at Ohio State) is doubtful with an ankle injury.

Louisiana Tech at MIAMI-FLORIDA (-30½)—Miami starting MLB Leon Williams has a hand fracture and will likely be held out. PK Jon Peattie (only 1 of 3 vs. Florida State) has a strained groin and is questionable; might handle shorter kicks.

Cincinnati (-2½; 51½) at SYRACUSE—One of the smallest football crowds in two decades is expected at the Carrier Dome, perhaps in the neighborhood of 30,000. More than 5,000 disgruntled Orange fans have either canceled or turned in their tickets.

Kansas at NORTHWESTERN (-3; 59½)—NW top RB Noah Herron (199 YR, 3 TDs TY) has been downgraded to questionable due to concussion symptoms.

Ball State at MISSOURI (-25½)—Ball State has lost top RB & KR Larry Bostic (knee) for the rest of the season.

Northern Illinois at IOWA STATE (-3; 45)—Northern starting QB Josh Haldi (25 TDP LY) remains sidelined indefinitely with a foot stress fracture. ISU No. 1 PK Tony Yelk (strained hip) is questionable at best for the game. Cyclone walk-on backup PK Brian Jansen missed 3 FGs in last week's 17-10 loss at Iowa.

Ohio at MIAMI-OHIO (-19½)—

Akron at VIRGINIA (-31½)—

Ohio State at NORTH CAROLINA STATE (-1; 45½)—Starting RB T.A. McLendon & starting OLB/SS Andre Maddox are both expected to start for the Wolfpack after sitting out the team's opener with strained hamstrings. OSU starting CB & team capt. Dustin Fox is out with a broken arm.

Lsu at AUBURN (-1; 41)—LSU top returning WR and PR Skyler Green resumed to light workouts this week after sitting out the Ark. State game. Green aggravated his sore ankle in the Oregon State game and is still not quite 100%. Auburn players and coaches spent Wed. & Thur. in a Montgomery hotel, riding out Hurricane Ivan.

Oregon at OKLAHOMA (-28)—

Wisconsin (-11½; 41) at ARIZONA—Arizona starting RB Mike Bell, who suffered a knee bruise and laceration last week vs. Utah, is expected to play. Star RB Anthony Davis (eye) remains out for Wisconsin.

New Mexico at OREGON STATE (-12½)—

Toledo (-10) at EASTERN MICHIGAN—Toledo starting RB Trinity Dawson is questionable with a rib injury. Jr. Quinton Broussard is a proven, veteran backup. Rockets (603 ypg!) rank last in total defense so far TY.

Georgia Tech (-8½) at NORTH CAROLINA—UNC has lost sr. starting RT Skip Seagraves for the season with an ankle injury. Coach John Bunting says one of the Tar Heels' problems last week had to do with defensive signals from the sidelines. Soph MLB Fred Sparkman gets the calls from the coaches and relays them to his teammates. Virginia's quick-paced West Coast-style of offense took advantage of several slow communications in last week's 56-24 blowout in Charlottesville.

Uab at FLORIDA STATE (-23)—FSU coach Bobby Bowden says Chris Rix will remain the team's starting CB. Rix has been under fire for his 2 ints. & 2 fumbles in last week's OT loss to Miami. FSU still banged up and thin in the OL. The Seminoles (just one game so far) rank 117th and last in Div. I-A in total offense! UAB QB Darrell Hackney goes into the game with a sore groin; top RB Dan Burks with a sore leg. Both are probable.

Notre Dame (-3½; 42½) at MICHIGAN STATE—ND starting RB Ryan Grant (hamstring; only 4 for 9 rushing last week) is probable, but reportedly still not 100%. True frosh backup Darius Walker came off the bench for the Irish last

week to rush 31 times for 115 yds. & 2 TDs in ND's upset of Michigan. The Spartans have six true freshmen on their latest two-deep lineups.

Clemson (-1; 54½) at TEXAS A&M—Clemson starting RB Duane Coleman, out since August camp with a foot fracture, has returned to limited practice and has a chance to see some action. However, HC Tommy Bowden says Coleman's status will remain uncertain until just before kickoff. Aggie starting RB Courtney Lewis (banged up), who DNP last week vs. Wyoming, is set to return.

Tcu at TEXAS TECH (-6; 62½)—Horned Frog QB Tye Gunn (sore ribs last game) is expected to start.

Louisville at TULANE—Postponed due to Hurricane Ivan.

South Florida at SOUTH CAROLINA (-12½)—South Carolina sr. QB Dondrial Pinkins (sore shoulder) is not expected to start, but is expected to be available. Speedy soph backup QB Syvelle Newton (22 recs. LY; has seen brief action in first two games) is slated to start. RB Demetris Summers (ankle) is not expected to dress. Juco starting CB Jonathon Joseph is out 6-8 weeks with a foot injury. However, top WR Troy Williamson, who left last week's game with a strained hamstring, returns. Possible wet weather.

Navy at TULSA (-1)—

Smu at OKLAHOMA STATE (-34)—Struggling soph Chris Phillips (18 of 42 TY) starts again at QB for SMU, but HC Phil Bennett says juco Tony Eckert (14 of 24) will continue to get substantial playing time. OSU, 2-0, has completed only 5 passes in its first two games!

Ucla at WASHINGTON (Pick 'em; 49½)—6-5 jr. Casey Paus (3 ints. in opener) will start at QB for Washington. Soph running type QB Isaiah Stanback (1 int.) has not practiced in the last week and a half (ankle) and is not expected to play, with mobile 6-3 RS frosh Carl Bonnell the backup this week. UCLA will welcome the return of two defensive starters in its previously very young and banged-up front seven. Projected jr. starting DT C.J. Niusulu, the Bruins' most experienced returning def. lineman, is expected to start after testing his knee injury briefly in last week's win at Illinois. Top ILB Justin London, UCLA's top returning tackler, will be back in the starting lineup after playing as a backup last week. In the first two games, the Bruins have given up 634 YR. That UCLA defense will be challenged in part by Steve Axman, who was fired LY as the Bruins off. coord. and is now WR coach in Seattle. LY, under Axman, UCLA finished 110th (of 117) in total offense. The Bruins currently rank 25th after two games. UCLA spent part of this week practicing with loud, piped-in crowd noise and with hand signals. The crowd at Husky Stadium is usually one of the noisiest in the country.

Florida at TENNESSEE (-3; 45½)—RB Cedric Houston (sprained ankle in opener vs. UNLV two weeks ago) is reportedly about 90% and has been named to start for the Vols. Just a few days before its big game with the Gators, Tennessee coach Phil Fulmer has shaken up his young, rebuilding (only 1 starter back) secondary. Jr. Jason Allen—the DB veteran—moves from starting CB to starting FS, with soph S Corey Campbell benched. True frosh Jonathon Hefney takes over at RCB. Soph Jonathon Wade starts at LCB in place of RS frosh Roshaun Fellows. Possible wet weather.

Hawaii (-1½; 60½) at RICE—Rice RB Thomas Lott is expected to miss his second. straight game with a hip injury.

Army at HOUSTON (-15½)—Army has lost sr. starting ILB Matt Maimone for 3 weeks with an arm injury.

Nebraska (-4; 41½) at PITTSBURGH—

Buffalo at NEVADA (-15½)—

Boise State (-28½) at TEXAS-EL PASO—

Minnesota (-3½; 63½) at COLORADO STATE—RB Jimmy Green (DNP last week; ankle) returns for CSU.

Southern Cal (-26½) at BYU—Quick 6-1 jr. John Beck will be back as the starting QB for BYU this week. He says he expects his sore shoulder to be about 90%. USC RB Herschel Dennis, the team's starting TB LY, has had his suspension lifted and has returned to the team. Dennis was suspended in training camp and later investigated by police in connection with sexual assault allegations in the team's residence quarters. Dennis will have to fight to win playing time back from sophs Reggie Bush & LenDale White, two of the Trojans' stars in the first two games, and he is unlikely to see much, if any, action this week (most likely on STs). First game back in Provo for USC off. coord. Norm Chow, who was an assistant for 25 years under LaVell Edwards before leaving after the 1999 season. Chow says he has no special feeling returning to BYU, partly because he has no family left in the area, partly because Edwards is now retired, and partly because the Trojans defeated BYU LY at the L.A. Coliseum. However, insiders report Chow did leave the Cougar program with some bitterness after it became apparent he would not be tabbed

to succeed Edwards. The post went to current Cougar mentor Gary Crowton, a former BYU asst. who had moved on to become off. coord. with the Chicago Bears.

Air Force at UNLV (-6; 45)—Soph Shane Steichen might replace sr. Kurt Nantkes (groin injury last week) at QB for UNLV. However, Rebel coach John Robinson says Nantkes has been improving rapidly and will be a "gametime decision."

Iowa at ARIZONA STATE (-1; 47½)—Iowa thin on offense after the loss of No. 2 RB, RS frosh Albert Young, just one week after losing No. 3, jr. Marcus Schnoor. Both are through for the season with knee injuries. In the OL, starting C Brian Ferentz (staph infection), starting G David Walker (Achilles), and backup G Todd Plagman (ankle) are out. Jr. Ben Gates, a recently converted TE, will start at G. Also, jr. WR Matt Melloy (2 recs. in opener) is out at least two games with a sprained knee. With ASU coach Dirk Koetter under fire for LY's defensive collapse and 5-7 finish, many Sun Devil supporters are calling this the "biggest game" of his 3-year stint in Tempe.

UL-Lafayette at KANSAS STATE (-31)—Soph QB Dylan Meier says he is well enough to be back in the starting lineup for Kansas State. Backup Alan Webb (only 4 of 13 passing in the loss to Fresno) started after Meier suffered a sore shoulder in the K-State opener. Meier relieved last week, but had to leave that game with a sore hand. Scouts report that waiting in the wings if the two older QBs continue to disappoint is 6-1 true frosh Allan Evridge of Papillion, Nebraska, who had committed to Nebraska and Frank Solich to run the option, then changed his mind when the Huskers went with Bill Callahan to install his version of the West Coast offense. Indications are there will be at least 4 new starters for KSU this in the wake of their 45-21 home humiliation vs. Fresno.

Florida Atlantic at MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE (-2½)—

North Texas at COLORADO (-20½)—North Texas star RB Patrick Cobbs, the nation's leading rusher LY, is out with a knee injury.

Washington State (-25) vs. Idaho [*Although this is an official home game for Idaho, the contest is being played at Wazzu's Martin Stadium in nearby Pullman, because Idaho's own Kibbie Dome only holds about 16,000 fans*]—Soph Josh Swogger remains the starting QB for Washington State despite a poor game (6 of 27) in last week's 20-12 loss in Seattle to Colorado. The 6-5, 240 Swogger is being pressured by the quicker 6-1, 192 RS frosh Alex Brink (12 of 23, with 1 TD & 1 int. off the bench last week). HC Bill Doba says Brink has been told to be "ready to play." On defense, Doba says starting DTs Steve Cook (knee ligament) & Ropati Pitoitua (high ankle sprain) are both out this week, with a soph & frosh replacing them.

UL-Monroe at ARKANSAS (-30½)—

Memphis (-23) at ARKANSAS STATE—

Utah (-19½) at UTAH STATE—Utah State, whose defense was vastly improved LY, has lost one of its top defenders—soph starting FS Terrance Washington, a frosh A-A LY—for the rest of the season (knee).

Troy State (-10) at NEW MEXICO STATE—

NFL FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Denver (-3; 38½) at JACKSONVILLE—Denver CB Lenny Walls is expected to miss about a month with a dislocated shoulder.

Pittsburgh at BALTIMORE (-3½; 35½)—Baltimore's all-pro LT, Jonathan Ogden, who missed last week's game in Cleveland with a sprained knee, is expected to start. Ogden's replacement, Ethan Brooks, is out at least two weeks with a similar injury. Without Ogden, Raven RB Jamal Lewis (500 YR in two games vs. Cleveland LY) was held to 57 YR. Balt. WR Travis Taylor (groin) is expected to miss 4 weeks; starting NT Kelly Gregg is out two weeks (arthro knee surgery).

Houston at DETROIT (-3; 43½)—As had been feared, Detroit WR Charles Rogers (only 5 games LY) is through for the season with a broken collarbone, his second such injury in the past two seasons. Unlike last year, however, the Lions are now deeper at WR with the addition of top draft pick Roy Williams, free agent Tai Streets from S.F., and veteran Az Hakim healthier than he was LY. Also, starting CB Dre' Bly is out two weeks with a sprained knee, with nickel-back Andre Goodman (3rd year) likely to take over.

Indianapolis at TENNESSEE (-1½; 46½)—RB Chris Brown (sprained ankle in opener) is expected to start for the Titans. Tennessee has lost starting G Zach Piller (torn bicep), perhaps for the season. Rookie Jacob Bell (5th round, Miami-O.) replaces. For the second straight year, the Titans have signed veteran kicker Gary Anderson, the NFL's all-time leading scorer, to replace Joe Nedney, lost for the season in the final exhibition. Indy thin this week in the secondary.

NFL FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Chicago at GREEN BAY (-8½; 41)—Green Bay starting CB Mike McKenzie has ended his holdout (but reportedly not his feud with Packer HC & GM Mike Sherman). McKenzie says he expects to play Sunday. But he is unlikely to start. On the negative side, Packer coaches are bemoaning the loss of bulky, space-eating DT Grady Jackson, who is out 3-4 weeks with a sprained knee.

Washington (-3; 41) at NEW YORK GIANTS—N.Y. has lost starting S Omar Stoutmire for the season (ACL). Meanwhile, Giants veterans continue to complain about the ultra-disciplined approach of new coach Tom Coughlin. CB Terry Cousin and LBs Carlos Emmons & Barrett Green have filed complaints with the players' union after being fined, allegedly because they did not show up early enough for a team meeting. The meeting time was reportedly 9:00AM, but Coughlin wants his players to show up 5 minutes early. The trio filing the complaint contend they arrived at 8:56. Redskins WR coach Stan Hixon has not been with the team since his son Drew suffered a head injury and fell into a coma while playing for Tennessee Tech in last Saturday's game at South Florida.

San Francisco at NEW ORLEANS (-7½; 42½)—Ken Dorsey, in his second year from Miami, is set to make his first NFL start for S.F. Tim Rattay is doubtful after suffering a mild shoulder separation and apparent mild concussion last week against Atlanta, with a determination expected late Friday whether he is well enough to be the backup Sunday. S.F. also hurting on defense, with starting DE Andre Carter (back) & starting CB Mike Rumph (groin) expected to miss this week. Hurricane Ivan's arrival this week disrupted the Saints practices. The team left Tuesday to temporarily set up practices in San Antonio, Texas, hoping to return Friday afternoon. The New Orleans Superdome was used as a designated emergency "special-needs" shelter by city authorities in midweek.

St. Louis at ATLANTA (-2½; 46½)—Home debut for new Atlanta HC Jim Mora, Jr.

Carolina at KANSAS CITY (-6½; 46½)—Star RB Stephen Davis of Carolina has undergone arthro knee surgery and is out 2-5 weeks. Steve Smith, Carolina's most dangerous deep WR, is out indefinitely with a fractured fibula. Second-round WR Keary Colbert of Southern Cal is expected to get increased playing time.

Seattle (-2½; 36½) at TAMPA BAY—Seattle star RB Shaun Alexander (bruised knee) remains questionable, but improving. Coach Mike Holmgren says Alexander will play only if he returns in time for Friday's practice. Three-year veteran Maurice Morris is his backup. The Bucs have lost starting WR Joey Galloway for 4-6 weeks after he aggravated a groin injury that caused him to miss much of training camp.

Cleveland at DALLAS (-4½; 38½)—Browns RB Lee Suggs, who missed the last exhibition and reg.-season opener with a neck injury, has returned to practice.

New England (-8½; 41½) at ARIZONA—N.E. CB Ty Law (very limited time vs. Indy in opener due to a hamstring) is expected to play. WR/PR Troy Brown (knee) is questionable. Arizona starting OLB Raynoch Thompson (knee) is not expected to play; starting OLB Levar Fisher (knee) is doubtful. RB Kevin Faulk has returned to the team after missing the opener due to his mother's death.

Buffalo at OAKLAND (-3½; 37½)—Bills' starting S Lawyer Milloy is out 3 weeks with an injured forearm. Raiders' top draft pick, Robert Gallery, gets his first NFL start, at RT (he was a LT at Iowa). Oakland starting OLB Napoleon Harris (knee; out last week) is expected to play.

New York Jets (-3; 46) at SAN DIEGO—S.D. WR/PR Tim Dwight, out since early in the preseason with a strained hamstring, is expected to return.

Miami at CINCINNATI (-5; 39)—As expected, A.J. Feeley (21 of 31 for 168 yds., 1 TD, 1 int. off the bench last week vs. Tenn.) has been named to start at QB for the Dolphins. Miami is now even thinner at RB, with Travis Minor out this week with an ankle injury. The bulk of the carries are expected to go to former Ram Lamar Gordon (12 for 32 rushing last week), who was signed after the final weekend of the preseason. Cincy, which gave up 438 yds. last week vs. the Jets, (219 on the ground), will be healthier on defense, with top LB Brian Simmons (knee) and CB Deltha O'Neal (ankle) both expected to return.

Minnesota at PHILADELPHIA (-3; 49)—Minnesota has lost veteran nickel-back Ken Irvin for the season with a torn Achilles. The team has signed journeymen CBs Terrance Shaw and Ralph Brown. FB/H-B Jim Kleinsasser is out 2-3 weeks with strained knee, and RB Michael Bennett (knee) will miss his second straight game. With veteran RB Moe Williams doubtful with an ankle injury, Larry Ned & rookie Mewelde Moore will back up RB Onterio Smith. DE Kenny Mixon will serve the second game of his 2-game NFL suspension. Philly has lost rookie starting G Shawn Andrews for the season with a leg fracture. Andrews is the third Eagle starter lost for the season so far. The team has re-signed veteran RB Dorsey Levens. Eagles coach Mike Reid has warned all his players this week not to get involved in the verbal sparring begun by the Vikings Randy Moss.