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2012 COLLEGE & PRO FOOTBALL NEWSLETTER

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Games of September 27 - October 2, 2012

With this issue we debut our 2012 Spreadsheet. This exclusive feature provides concise comparative data for all 124 FBS/Division I-A college and 32 NFL teams. With the data you'll be able to analyze games of your choice, including games on which we have just an opinion or lean. From the data you may be able to uncover some additional selections that may meet your own criterion or selection preferences. The Spreadsheet should be viewed not as a substitute for the selections in the Newsletter, but rather as a supplement. By looking at how teams match up in various fundamental and technical areas you'll be able to better see the 'hows' and 'whys' of football. Let's look at the data which is the same for both the colleges and the pros.

The first data is very basic, with the straight up (**W-L**) and pointspread (**C-N-P**) records shown followed by the average points scored and allowed plus margin of victory/defeat. Then comes rush, pass and total yardage per game averages, (against all foes, including non I-A college teams). Offensive data is given first, then defensive data. Also shown are net total yards per game gained/allowed and net turnover margin for the season (not per game average). We then show several sets of Power Ratings, which we discuss below.

AVE PWR RTG is a team's Average Power Rating and is based on a team's results, measured totally by final scores. These are 'raw' Ratings that are the basis for more detailed Ratings. These are evaluated on a weekly basis and adjusted based upon comparing expected victory margin vs. actual margin, as predicted by current Power Rating and take into account, in the case of the colleges, a team's Conference Rating.

AVE OPP PWR RTG is the Average Opponents' Power Rating and is based upon the same concepts as a team's own Power Ratings. It is derived simply by taking an average of all opponents' Power Ratings at the time the game was played. This gives us a basic measure of a team's level of competition. For the colleges Opponents' Power Ratings are also influenced by the strength of a team's Conference Rating.

NET CHG is the pure change in a team's Power Rating from the season's start and measure whether a team has improved or worsened during the season.

LINE POWER is the Line Power rating and is an attempt to measure a team's strength based on both how the public perceives the team (in terms of the Average Line Played Against, or their average pointspread) and how the team actually performs on the field (in terms of Average Result Vs. the Line). A higher number is better and we use a weighting formula that places somewhat more of an emphasis on how the team performs as opposed to how the team is expected to perform. We weight "Reality" heavier than "Perception."

GAME PLAY POWER is Game Play Power Rating and is an attempt to evaluate the result of each games in a numerical fashion by looking at other factors in addition to the final score. In particular we look at rushing yardage, passing yardage and turnovers in addition to the final score and develop a single measure to indicate which team played the better game regardless of the outcome. Sometimes the better team doesn't win. But that's not the way to wager. We want to be able to use this measure as a means of finding attractive underdogs who might not have a good win-loss record but have played much more competitively than final scores might indicate. Conversely, this measure helps us find overvalued and false favorites.

COMP POWER represents Composite Power Rating and is a combination of the two Ratings just described plus the team's Average Power Rating and their Opponents' Average Power Rating. It is the one number that attempts to take into account all of the important factors in analyzing a game and does so without bias. It's

based on a formula that we've used for years. And as the season progresses it represents a pretty good measure of the actual difference between teams.

Finally, '**X FACTOR**' is a measure of correlation between a team's ability to gain or allow yards and their ability to score or prevent points. A positive number is indicative of an efficient team while a negative number indicates an inefficient team. We'll have more on this interesting, revealing and useful statistic next week.

COLLEGE SELECTION OF THE WEEK: Clemson - 9 ½ over BOSTON COLLEGE – Clemson was not intimidated by the Florida State mystique last week as the Tigers got out to an early lead that reached 28-14 in the third quarter. Unfortunately they succumbed to the overall talent of the Seminoles, losing their first game of the season, 49-37. Boston College was off last week after starting 2-1 with a rout of FCS Maine sandwiched between losses to Miami Fla and Northwestern. Clemson has the much stronger offense with several playmakers with NFL talent. Their vulnerability is on defense although it's doubtful that BC has enough offense to trade points with the Tigers. And the BC defense is unlikely to contain the Clemson offense once the game develops its flow. This had been a competitive series in BC's early days as a member of the ACC but Clemson has won 2 of the last 3 meetings by 18 and 22 points. Both of those wins were at home and BC did win 16-10 on this field in 2010. But Clemson is much more potent in 2012. Clemson wins 37-20.

Other Featured College Selections

Louisiana Tech - 2 ½ over VIRGINIA – Louisiana Tech is no longer a secret after an impressive blowout win on the road at Big 10 Illinois. It followed solid wins over lesser foes Rice and Houston but has the Techsters 3-0 and piling up yards and points in bunches. And although the raw defensive stats are below average, they have recovered an average of 3.3 turnovers per game. Virginia is very limited offensively but surprisingly their defense is below average as well. The Cavs were fortunate in defeating Penn State in their last home game before losing the past two weeks at Georgia Tech and TCU. The fact that Tech is favored on the road while appearing to step up in class is a sign of the respect the linesmakers have for them. But often when a relatively unknown program is favored on the road the line is often shorter than it should be. That would seem to be the case here as UV's defense doesn't match up well against Tech's offense. Louisiana Tech win 34-23.

AIR FORCE - 15 over Colorado State – Although Air Force has had to replace the majority of its starters from last season, the Falcons still do what they have always done well – run the football. They are # 2 in the nation, averaging 375 rushing ypg. They have statistical edges in most categories over a very weak CSU team that is in transition with a first year coach. After defeating Colorado to open the season, CSU has lost 3 in a row, 2 of which were at home including a loss to a solid FCS program, North Dakota State. Air Force has dropped 2 in a row after hammering FCS Idaho State. One of those losses was a competitive 31-25 loss at Michigan, the other last week at weak conference rival UNLV, 38-35. Air Force has dominated CSU in recent seasons, scoring at least 34 points in winning each of the last 5 meetings with each of the wins by at least 17 points. After back to back losses the Force will be fully focused to aggressively attack a porous CSU defense and faces a team with limited offensive capability. Air Force wins 41-17.

OKLAHOMA STATE + 2 ½ over Texas – Under the guidance of coach Gundy and the financial backing of T Boone Pickens, Oklahoma State has greatly improved its status on the college football landscape and the Cowboys now reload rather than rebuild. Much like the Texas program they will face this week but not yet near the elite status enjoyed by the Longhorns. After years of being routinely whipped by UT, OSU has beaten the Longhorns in each of the past 2 seasons with both wins on the road. OSU had not beaten Texas since 1997. Despite key personnel losses to the offense, OSU is leading the nation in total offense 689 ypg) in games against FBS competition only (thus does not include the rout of Savannah State). Texas is the better defensive team although the OSU defense is much better than the one that lost at Arizona. This is the Big 12 opener for both teams and while OSU has a Bye next week Texas has back to back games vs West Virginia and Oklahoma the next two weeks. OSU pulls the mild upset. Oklahoma State wins 34-30.

Best of the Rest (Opinions)

Cincinnati + 7 over Virginia Tech [3]	Penn State + 1 ½ over ILLINOIS
Minnesota + 6 ½ over IOWA	IOWA STATE + 2 ½ over Texas Tech

Ball State - 1 over KENT STATE	Indiana + 12 ½ over NORTHWESTERN
South Carolina - 20 ½ over KENTUCKY	NORTHERN ILLINOIS - 10 ½ over Central Michigan
San Jose State - 2 ½ over NAVY	Arkansas + 13 ½ over TEXAS A&M
Baylor + 12 ½ over WEST VIRGINIA	Tennessee + 13 ½ over GEORGIA
CALIFORNIA - 2 ½ over Arizona State	Oregon State + 3 over Arizona
CENTRAL FLORIDA - 2 ½ over Missouri	EAST CAROLINA - 4 ½ over Utep
MIAMI FLA - 2 ½ over North Carolina State	WESTERN MICHIGAN - 1 ½ over Toledo
Texas San Antonio + 4 over NEW MEXICO STATE	Wisconsin + 13 over NEBRASKA
San Diego State + 7 ½ over FRESNO STATE	ARKANSAS STATE + 2 ½ over Western Kentucky
North Texas - 6 ½ over FLORIDA ATLANTIC	

The Rest (Leans)

WASHINGTON + 7 over Stanford [1]	Hawaii + 27 ½ over BYU [2]
Buffalo + 17 ½ over CONNECTICUT	Ohio U - 24 over MASSACHUSETTS
NORTH CAROLINA - 24 ½ over Idaho	PURDUE - 16 ½ over Marshall
Duke + 3 over WAKE FOREST	Tcu - 17 over SMU
COLORADO + 20 ½ over UCLA	Oregon - 28 ½ over Washington State [4]
MICHIGAN STATE - 3 over Ohio State	ALABAMA - 31 ½ over Mississippi
AKRON + 5 ½ over Miami Ohio	Florida State - 17 over SOUTH FLORIDA
TEXAS STATE + 20 over Nevada	Louisville - 10 ½ over SOUTHERN MISS
Tulsa - 13 ½ over ALA-BIRMINGHAM	UTAH STATE - 17 ½ over Unlv
Houston - 5 over Rice [5]	NEW MEXICO + 26 ½ over Boise State
SOUTH ALABAMA + 9 ½ over Troy	UL LAFAYETTE - 6 over Florida International
GEORGIA TECH - 27 ½ over Middle Tennessee	UL Monroe - 17 ½ over TULANE

[1] Thursday, September 27

[4] at Seattle, WA

[2] Friday, September 28

[5] at Reliant Stadium

[3] at Landover, MD

NFL SELECTION OF THE WEEK: New England - 4 over BUFFALO – After controlling most of their game against Baltimore Sunday night the Patriots lost 31-30 on a last second FG that barely cleared the right upright. It was their second straight last second loss which should ensure a maximum effort this week at Division rival Buffalo. After an opening week loss at the Jets, the Bills routed Kansas City before winning again last week at Cleveland. But now they step up in class against the team that's won the AFC in 8 of the last 9 seasons. Had the Pats defeated Baltimore last week they might have been on "upset alert," especially having lost to the Bills here last season. But it's tough to see the Pats falling to 1-3 especially since they very well could be 3-0. The QB matchup greatly favors the Pats' Brady who is much less likely to make a key poor decision than his Buffalo counterpart Fitzpatrick. They've already shown defensive improvement over last season and have faced a far more challenging early season schedule. New England wins 34-23.

Other Featured NFL Selections:

San Francisco - 4 over NEW YORK JETS – In a predictable flat spot last week San Francisco was upset

at Minnesota. The Jets' win at Miami was costly as their top defensive player, CB Revis, suffered a season ending injury. Last season the 49ers followed all 3 losses with wins and covers as coach Harbaugh is proving to be an outstanding NFL coach. The Niners have the better defense and are facing a struggling QB in the Jets' Sanchez whose problems are compounded by the lack of a running game. The Niners are spending the week in Ohio to increase preparation time and limit travel impacts. They've also faced a more demanding early season schedule against better foes with both wins coming against 2011 Playoff teams expected to contend again this season. The Niners are the better balanced team. San Francisco wins 23-13.

ST LOUIS + 2 ½ over Seattle – To say Seattle was fortunate in beating Green Bay Monday night is a huge understatement. But notwithstanding the controversial ending, Seattle is playing some of the best defense in the NFL. Of course those efforts against Dallas and Green Bay came at home. Now, off back to back emotional wins, the Seahawks take to the road to face an improving Division rival. The Rams were competitive into the fourth quarter of last week's 23-6 loss at Chicago, trailing just 10-6 with 10 minutes left in the fourth quarter. St Louis Coach Fisher clearly has made a difference with the Rams as they've played well in all 3 games, despite winning just once. Seattle is a team on the rise but is clearly capable of losing on the road and it may be a bit premature in making the Seahawks road favorites. St Louis wins 23-16.

PHILADELPHIA - 2 over N Y Giants – Given the cluster of injuries to key offensive personnel and the short week to prepare, the Giants' 36-7 blowout win at Carolina may turn out to be the most impressive effort of the entire season. Now the G-men have had extra rest to assimilate the former reserves into the starting lineup as they prepare to face a Philly team that was finally unable to overcome the turnover issues that plagued them in their first two games, both single point wins, in their lopsided loss last week at Arizona. Although the teams split their meetings last season, the Eagles are on 6-1 SU and ATS run against the Giants since 2008. They lead the NFL in outgaining foes by an average of 141 ypg and have yet to play their best. The Eagles are 9-3 both SU and ATS against Division rivals the past 2 seasons. Philadelphia wins 27-20.

Best of the Rest (Opinions)

ATLANTA - 7 over Carolina	HOUSTON - 12 over Tennessee
Cincinnati - 2 over JACKSONVILLE	New Orleans + 8 over GREEN BAY
TAMPA BAY - 3 over Washington	Chicago + 4 over DALLAS (Monday)

The Rest (Leans)

Cleveland + 13 over BALTIMORE (Thursday)	DETROIT - 8 * over Minnesota
KANSAS CITY - 1 over San Diego	Miami + 6 ½ over ARIZONA
Oakland + 6 ½ over DENVER	

BYES – Indianapolis, Pittsburgh

Best of the NFL Totals

New England/Buffalo OVER 52	San Francisco/N Y Jets UNDER 40
Miami/Arizona UNDER 39 ½	Oakland/Denver OVER 47 ½
New Orleans/Green Bay OVER 54	Chicago/Dallas UNDER 42

Money Line Recommendations

College:	Cincinnati	Penn State	Oregon State	OKLAHOMA STATE
Pro:	New England	San Francisco	ST LOUIS	Chicago

NOTE: All Selections are picked Against the Spread (ATS). Unless otherwise indicated, HOME TEAMS are in CAPS. All material is provided as news matter only and is not to be used in violation of any Federal, State or Local law(s).