

Inside the Pressbox WEEK 2

Friday, September 10th

301 KANSAS  
7:30 p.m.  
302 COASTAL CAROLINA

303 UTEP  
9:30 p.m.  
304 BOISE ST

Saturday, September 11th

305 ILLINOIS  
11:00 a.m.  
306 VIRGINIA

307 WKU  
11:30 a.m.  
308 ARMY

309 OREGON  
12:00 p.m.  
310 OHIO STATE

311 BOSTON COLLEGE  
12:00 p.m.  
312 MASSACHUSETTS

313 FLORIDA  
12:00 p.m.  
314 USF

315 PITTSBURGH  
12:00 p.m.  
316 TENNESSEE

317 SOUTH CAROLINA  
12:00 p.m.  
318 EAST CAROLINA

319 GEORGIA SOUTHERN  
12:00 p.m.  
320 FAU

321 MIAMI, OH  
12:00 p.m.  
322 MINNESOTA

323 TULSA  
12:00 p.m.  
324 OKLAHOMA ST

325 WYOMING  
1:30 p.m.  
326 NORTHERN ILLINOIS

327 RUTGERS  
2:00 p.m.  
328 SYRACUSE

329 MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
2:00 p.m.  
330 VIRGINIA TECH

331 NEW MEXICO ST  
2:00 p.m.  
332 NEW MEXICO

333 TOLEDO  
2:30 p.m.  
334 NOTRE DAME

335 PURDUE  
3:00 p.m.  
336 CONNECTICUT

337 AIR FORCE  
3:30 p.m.  
338 NAVY

339 BALL ST  
3:30 p.m.  
340 PENN ST

341 TEMPLE  
3:30 p.m.  
342 AKRON

343 ★ UAB  
3:30 p.m.  
344 GEORGIA

345 CALIFORNIA  
3:30 p.m.  
346 TCU

347 BUFFALO  
3:30 p.m.  
348 ★ NEBRASKA

349 IOWA  
3:30 p.m.  
350 IOWA ST

351 TEXAS A&M  
3:30 p.m. Denver  
352 COLORADO

353 SOUTH ALABAMA  
4:00 p.m.  
354 BOWLING GREEN

355 HOUSTON  
6:30 p.m.  
356 RICE

357 APPALACHIAN ST  
7:00 p.m.  
358 MIAMI, FL

359 TEXAS ST  
7:00 p.m.  
360 FIU

361 NC STATE  
7:00 p.m.  
362 MISSISSIPPI ST

363 ★ EASTERN MICHIGAN  
7:00 p.m.  
364 WISCONSIN

365 NORTH TEXAS  
7:00 p.m.  
366 SMU

367 LIBERTY  
7:00 p.m.  
368 TROY

369 MEMPHIS  
7:00 p.m.  
370 ARKANSAS ST

371 TEXAS  
7:00 p.m.  
372 ARKANSAS

373 MISSOURI  
7:30 p.m.  
374 ★ KENTUCKY

375 GEORGIA ST  
7:30 p.m.  
376 NORTH CAROLINA

377 ★ WASHINGTON  
7:30 p.m. Upset POW  
378 MICHIGAN

379 VANDERBILT  
10:00 p.m.  
380 COLORADO ST

381 SAN DIEGO ST  
10:00 p.m.  
382 ARIZONA

383 UTAH  
10:15 p.m.  
384 BYU

385 UNLV  
10:30 p.m.  
386 ARIZONA ST

387 STANFORD  
10:30 p.m.  
388 USC

389 HAWAII  
11:00 p.m.  
390 OREGON ST

FBS vs FCS Games  
Friday September 10th

North Carolina A&T at Duke  
North Dakota Utah St  
Saturday September 11th

★ Kent St vs VMI  
Norfolk St at Wake Forest  
Youngstown St at Michigan St  
Kennesaw St at Georgia Tech  
Indiana St at Northwestern  
Alabama St at Auburn  
Duquesne at Ohio  
Robert Morris at C Michigan  
Murray St at Cincinnati  
Mercer at Alabama  
South Carolina St at Clemson  
Illinois St at W Michigan  
Long Island at West Virginia  
★ Washington St vs Portland St  
Lamar at UTSA  
Gardner-Webb at Charlotte

Bethune Cookman at UCF  
NC Central at Marshall  
★ Southern Illinois at Kansas St  
Western Carolina at Oklahoma  
SE Louisiana at LA Tech  
Morgan St at Tulane  
E Kentucky at Louisville  
Hampton at Old Dominion  
Texas Southern at Baylor  
SF Austin at Texas Tech  
Grambling Southern Miss  
Nicholls at Louisiana  
Howard at Maryland  
Austin Peay at Mississippi  
Idaho at Indiana  
McNeese St at LSU  
Jacksonville at Florida St  
Cal Poly at Fresno St  
Idaho St at Nevada

Phil Steele's  
SPECIAL PLAYS OF THE WEEK  
UPSET PLAY OF THE WEEK  
this is a Best Bet  
★ Washington over Michigan  
HIGH SCORING POW  
No Selection this Week

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Iowa Hawkeyes															
Hawkeyes Logs															
TH REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TH +/-	FOE +/-	AP		DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM		--PS RANK--	FOE
0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	143	141	18	17	9/4	Indiana	34-6	W	OFF	DEF	ST	DEF ST
1-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	147	142	10	9	9/11	at Iowa St			72	16	3	4 23 69
	0-1		0-0		120			9/18	Kent St						63 124 112
	0-1		0-0		117			9/25	Colorado St						114 86 70
	1-0		0-0		124			10/2	at Maryland						50 60 82
	1-0		0-0		144			10/9	Penn St						22 11 25
	1-0		0-0		127			10/16	Purdue						55 61 75
								10/23	Bye						
	0-1		0-1		139			10/30	at Wisconsin						29 20 106
	0-1		0-1		127			11/6	at Northwestern						89 58 118
	0-1		0-1		133			11/13	Minnesota						47 97 104
	1-1		1-0		124			11/20	Illinois						75 95 44
	1-1		0-1		127			11/26	at Nebraska						61 48 86
Score		Net		FD		TO's		Offense		Comp		Yds		Defense	
				FD		RA-RY		YPC		Att		Pass		Sks	
Indiana		34-6		70		7 1		18 36-158		4.4 13-28		145 2		11 31-77 2.5 14-33 156 1	
at Iowa St															
Kent St															
Colorado St															
at Maryland															
Penn St															
Purdue															
Bye															
at Wisconsin															
at Northwestern															
Minnesota															
Illinois															
at Nebraska															
Average	34-6	70.0	7.0	1.0	18	36-158	4.4	46.4%	145	7.1%	11	31-77	2.5	42.4%	156 3.0%
Conference	34-6	70.0	7.0	1.0	18	36-158	4.4	46.4%	145	7.1%	11	31-77	2.5	42.4%	156 3.0%
Away	0-0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0-0	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0-0	0.0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Last Five Years Meetings (Last 22 years at PhilSteele.com)															
2019	Rank	Line	Score	FD	Rush	Comp-Att-Yds	TD's								
Iowa	19	-1.5	18	18	37-112	22-35-201									
Iowa St	-	42.5	17	20	19-91	25-35-327	-2								
2018	Rank	Line	Score	FD	Rush	Comp-Att-Yds	TD's								
Iowa	-	-3.5	13	14	36-105	16-28-166									
Iowa St	-	46.5	3	11	25-19	19-31-169	-1								
2017	Rank	Line	Score	FD	Rush	Comp-Att-Yds	TD's								
Iowa	-	-3	44	29	41-164	27-41-333									
Iowa St	-	48	41	22	26-120	25-46-347	-1								
2016	Rank	Line	Score	FD	Rush	Comp-Att-Yds	TD's								
Iowa	16	-15.5	42	25	36-198	20-30-237									
Iowa St	-	51.5	3	16	35-126	14-35-165	-1								
<a href="#">Return to Table of Contents</a>															
Projected Box Score															
113 yards	Projected Rushing					166 yards									
	Iowa Iowa St														
	Projected Passing														
	Iowa Iowa St														

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Memphis Tigers																OVERALL: 1-0 vs. AAC 0-0				OVERALL: 1-0 vs. SUN 0-0				Arkansas St Red Wolves																																																							
Tigers Logs																Red Wolves Logs																																																															
TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	TM	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	OFF	DEF	--PS RANK--	ST	OFF	DEF	ST	TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	TM	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	OFF	DEF	--PS RANK--	ST	OFF	DEF	ST																																						
0-0		0-0		123					9/4	Nicholls	42-17	W		36	66	60						0-0		0-0		110	126				9/4	Central Arkansas	40-21	W	86	112	66																																										
1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	126	111				9/11	at Arkansas St			35	66	1	77	107	83				1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0	111	126				9/11	Memphis			77	107	83	35	66	1																																							
1-0		0-0		128					9/18	Miss St						46	30	96				0-1		0-0		128			9/18	at Washington						27	28	111																																									
1-0		0-0		127					9/25	UTSA						68	64	95	#10	Rush Off	#48	0-1		0-0		124			9/25	at Tulsa						44	51	74																																									
0-1		0-0		108					10/2	at Temple						110	111	122	#45	Pass Off	#20	1-0		0-0		115			10/2	at GA Southern						99	87	35																																									
0-1		0-0		124					10/9	at Tulsa						44	51	74	#6	Total Off	#21	1-0		0-0		129			10/7	Coastal Carolina						17	50	97																																									
0-1		0-0		116					10/16	Navy						117	88	130	#26	Score Off	#32							10/16	Bye																																																		
1-0		0-0		130					10/23	at UCF						9	76	120	#1	Sks Allowed	#83	0-1		0-0		127			10/21	Louisiana						65	35	9																																									
									10/30	Bye									#49	Rush Def	#13	1-0		0-0		111			10/30	at South Alabama						121	96	72																																									
1-0		0-0		123					11/6	SMU						28	85	78	#62	Pass Def	#104	1-0		0-0		128			11/6	Appalachian St						26	22	29																																									
0-1		0-0		126					11/13	East Carolina						60	100	36	#43	Total Def	#59	0-1		0-0		96			11/13	at ULM						130	126	109																																									
0-1		0-0		118					11/19	at Houston						83	53	58	#51	Score Def	#63	0-1		0-0		117			11/20	at Georgia St						78	105	114																																									
0-1		0-0		131					11/27	Tulane						76	71	92	#113	Sks By	#85	0-1		0-0		113			11/27	Texas St						107	119	99																																									
																			#13	Ypg Diff	#30																																																										
																			+1	Total TO's	+1																																																										
Score																Yds				Net				FD				Offense				Comp				Yds				FD				Defense				Comp				Yds																											
Nicholls																42-17				288				15				1				32				53-322				6.1				19-32				265				0				17				28-100				3.6				19-34				199				0			
at Arkansas St																																																																															
Miss St																																																																															
UTSA																																																																															
at Temple																																																																															
at Tulsa																																																																															
Navy																																																																															
at UCF																																																																															
Bye																																																																															
SMU																																																																															
East Carolina																																																																															
at Houston																																																																															
Tulane																																																																															
Average																42-17				288.0				15.0				1.0				32				53-322				6.1				59.4%				265				0.0%				17				28-100				3.6				55.9%				199				0.0%			
Conference																0-0				0.0				0.0				0.0				0				0-0				0.0				0.0%				0				0.0%				0				0.0%				0				0.0%											
Away																0-0				0.0				0.0				0.0				0				0-0				0.0				0.0%				0				0.0%				0				0.0%				0				0.0%											
Last Five Years Meetings (Last 22 years at PhilSteele.com)																																																																															
2020	Rank	Line	Score	FD	Rush	Comp-Att-Yds	TO's	Projected Box Score																																																																							
Memphis	-	-18.5	37	29	47-222	27-37-280		177 yards	Memphis	Arkansas St	96 yards																																																																				
Arkansas St	-	74	24	25	36-125	27-43-299	-2	296 yards	Memphis	Arkansas St	328 yards																																																																				
								473 yards	Memphis	Arkansas St	423 yards																																																																				
								36 points	Memphis	Arkansas St	30 points																																																																				
								82	Memphis	Arkansas St	64																																																																				
								103	Memphis	Arkansas St	102																																																																				
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UNLV Rebels

Rebels Logs

TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM OFF	DEF	~PS RANK~ ST	OFF	DEF	ST
0-0		0-0		105			9/4	Eastern Washington	33-35	L	119	122	121			
0-1	1-0	0-0	0-0	106	131	23	9/11	at Arizona St			120	122	57	15	26	13
1-0		0-0			142		9/18	Iowa St					4	23	69	
1-1		0-0			126		9/25	at Fresno St					34	69	125	#47
1-0		0-0			127		10/2	at UTSA					68	64	95	#112
							10/9	Bye								#93
1-0		0-0			115		10/16	Utah St					102	90	53	#55
1-1		0-0			122		10/23	San Jose St					88	57	90	#102
1-0		0-0			129		10/30	at Nevada					36	72	26	#48
1-0		0-0			112		11/6	at New Mexico					97	121	100	#126
1-1		0-0			115		11/13	Hawaii					100	54	71	#110
1-0		0-0			118		11/20	San Diego St					85	42	31	#99
1-0		0-0			121		11/27	at Air Force					74	103	101	#37
																#113
																+1

Score	Yds	Net FD	TO's	FD	RA-RY	YPC	Comp Att	Yds Pass	Sks	FD	RA-RY	YPC	Comp Att	Yds Pass	Sks	
Eastern Washington	33-35	-132	-5	1	17	44-199	4.5	12-23	140	4	22	34-97	2.9	29-39	374	3
at Arizona St																
Iowa St																
at Fresno St																
at UTSA																
Bye																
Utah St																
San Jose St																
at Nevada																
at New Mexico																
Hawaii																
San Diego St																
at Air Force																
Average	33-35	-132.0	-5.0	1.0	17	44-199	4.5	52.2%	140	17.4%	22	34-97	2.9	74.4%	374	7.7%
Conference	0-0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0-0	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0-0	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Away	0-0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0-0	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0-0	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Arizona St Sun Devils

Sun Devils Logs

TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM OFF	DEF	~PS RANK~ ST	OFF	DEF	ST
0-0		0-0		134		23	9/4	Southern Utah	41-14	W	13	24	23			
1-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	131	106	25	9/11	UNLV			15	26	13	120	122	57
1-0		0-0			130		9/18	at BYU					45	74	30	
1-0		0-0			118		9/25	Colorado					58	45	66	
2-0		0-0			139		10/2	at UCLA					21	29	15	
0-1		0-0			126		10/9	Stanford					54	67	117	
1-0		0-0			137		10/16	at Utah					20	10	107	
							10/23	Bye								
0-1		0-0			128		10/30	Washington St					43	89	73	
1-0		0-0			135		11/6	USC					11	18	39	
0-1		0-0			128		11/13	at Washington					27	28	111	
0-1		0-0			124		11/20	at Oregon St					82	83	94	
0-1		0-0		118			11/27	Arizona					98	106	124	
Average	41-14	197.0	7.0	2.0	22	40-222	5.6	77.8%	199	11.1%	15	26-78	3.0	61.3%	146	6.5%
Conference	0-0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0-0	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0-0	0.0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Home	41-14	197.0	7.0	2.0	22	40-222	5.6	77.8%	199	11.1%	15	26-78	3.0	61.3%	146	6.5%

UNLV Rebels

TEAM AVERAGES

Arizona St Sun Devils

Position by Position Edges

UNLV	Arizona St
UNLV QB / WR	vs. Arizona St DB's 1.88
UNLV RB's	vs. Arizona St LB's 0.71
UNLV OL	vs. Arizona St DL 1.39
UNLV DL	vs. Arizona St OL 1.41
UNLV LB's	vs. Arizona St RB's 1.70
UNLV DB's	vs. Arizona St QB / WR 1.63
UNLV ST's	vs. Arizona St ST's 5.65
UNLV K	vs. Arizona St K 2.55
UNLV Coaches	vs. Arizona St Coaches 2.15
UNLV Pts	vs. Arizona St Pts 19.07
POSITIONAL EDGE AWARDED TO: Arizona St	
Bv 19.07 Points	

Las Vegas Line

Team & Margin

Phil's Forecast:

Las Vegas Total

53.5 Points

+/- Ratings

Arizona St By 29.5

Game Grade

Arizona St By 36.9

Computer Yards

Arizona St 563-210

Computer Points

Arizona St 44-14

Phil Steele

Arizona St by 31

Arizona St 44 UNLV 13

Last Five Years Meetings (Last 22 years at PhilSteele.com)

None

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Projected Box Score

99 yards	UNLV Arizona St	292 yards
111 yards	UNLV Arizona St	271 yards
210 yards	UNLV Arizona St	563 yards
14 points	UNLV Arizona St	44 points
77	UNLV Arizona St	12
96	UNLV Arizona St	116

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Hawaii Rainbow Warriors																OVERALL: 1-1 vs. MTW 0-0				OVERALL: 0-1 vs. PAC 12 0-0				Oregon St Beavers																					
Rainbow Warriors Logs																Beavers Logs																													
TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	TM	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	OFF	DEF	--PS RANK--	ST	OFF	DEF	ST	FOE	TM REC	FOE REC	TM CONF	FOE CONF	TM +/-	FOE +/-	AP	TM	FOE	DATE	FOE	SCORE	W/L	TEAM	OFF	DEF	--PS RANK--	ST	OFF	DEF	ST	FOE		
0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	122	131				8/28	at UCLA	10-44	L	90	57	86	28	32	82					0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	124	127				9/4	at Purdue	21-30	L	71	83	69	48	71	101				
0-1		0-0		118					9/4	Portland St	49-35	W	100	54	71								0-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	124	115				9/11	Hawaii			82	83	94	100	54	71				
1-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	115	124				9/11	at Oregon St			0	0	0	82	83	94					1-0		0-0	0-0				9/18	Idaho														
	1-1		0-0		122				9/18	San Jose St						88	57	90				#72			0-0		135			9/25	at USC							11	18	39					
	0-2		0-0		93				9/25	at New Mexico St						123	129	91				#41			0-0		128			10/2	Washington							27	28	111					
			0-0		126				10/2	Fresno St						34	69	125				#55			0-0		128			10/9	at Washington St							43	89	73					
									10/9	Bye												#69							10/16	Bye															
	1-0		0-0		129				10/16	at Nevada						36	72	26				#118			0-0		137			10/23	Utah							20	10	107					
	0-2		0-0		93				10/23	New Mexico St						123	129	91				#84			0-0		126			10/30	at California							87	43	126					
	1-0		0-0		115				10/30	at Utah St						102	90	53				#95			0-0		118			11/6	at Colorado							58	45	66					
	1-0		0-0		118				11/6	San Diego St						85	42	31				#98			0-0		126			11/13	Stanford							54	67	117					
	0-1		0-0		106				11/13	at UNLV						120	122	57				#111			0-0		131			11/20	Arizona St							15	26	13					
	0-1		0-0		117				11/20	Colorado St						114	86	70				#19			0-0		134			11/27	at Oregon							18	17	20					
	1-0		0-0		121				11/27	at Wyoming						95	59	38				#82																							
																						-2																							
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Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Duke By 21.5	<p>First &amp; only meeting occurred in '19 when Duke, (-27'), won 45-13 in their home opener. The Aggies didn't play in '20. In '19 they went 9-3 &amp; won the Celebration Bowl over Alcorn St. Duke is 26-8 ATS in non conf play. North Carolina A&amp;T was ahead in their 19 meeting with 2:29 left in the half but a turnover has them allow 21 pts in the last 2:29 of half! Duke had a 31-10 FD edge and rolled to a 45-13 win. Duke is a solid 7-1 ATS vs FCS teams with the average win by 43.2 ppg. Last week Mataeo Durant set a school record with 255 rush. Charlotte got 56 yd TD pass and led 10-0 but Duke led 14-10 half with 235-176 yd edge. Duke QB Holmberg fumble going into EZ for TB 3Q. Durant 59 yd run 21-17 but Char TD 2:59 left. Durant 53 yd TD run 1:44 Duke 28-24, but Char 75/7 TD :33 left win. NCarolina A&amp;T lost at Furman 29-18 with the Palladins having a 487-339 yard edge. With Cutcliffe now 31-13 ATS vs non conf and off a loss, I look for them to cover like they did when these two met two years ago.</p>
Las Vegas Total	57.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Duke By 13.3	
Game Grade	Duke By 32.2	
Computer Yards	Duke 668-140	
Computer Points	Duke 45-20	
Phil Steele	Duke by 31	<p><b>Duke 48 North Carolina A&amp;T 17</b></p>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Utah St By6	<p>1st meeting. Utah St has had success vs FCS foes s/'09 as they are 11-0 SU (7-4 ATS) winning by 35 ppg. The Fighting Hawks went 5-2 last spring and made it to the 2nd round of the FCS playoffs. UND began last spring with three consecutive wins over ranked opponents, including a 28-17 win over eventual national runner-up, #3 South Dakota St. They were knocked out of the playoffs by North Dakota St. North Dakota opened with a 35-14 win over Idaho St but with only a 368-301 yard-edge. ND is 5-2 ATS their last 7 vs FBS losing to Utah by 21, Washington by 42, and San Jose by 32 but they upset Wyoming in 2015, and only lost to BGreen by 1, San Diego St by 8 and Fresno by 5. Last week the Blake Anderson era got started on a great note with their upset of Wash St. They trailed 23-11 4Q but went 70/14 for a TD with 5:25 left then 78/10 including a 4&amp;3 conversion and their 7 yd TD pass with :11 left gave them the upset.</p> <p>They did rotate QB's Logan Bonner and Andrew Peasley and had a 441-360 yard-edge. North Dakota is a top-notch FCS squad but I like the Aggies at home to get the win by double digits.</p>
Las Vegas Total	59.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Utah St By 12.3	
Game Grade	North Dakota By 6.7	
Computer Yards	Utah St 610-108	
Computer Points	Utah St 36-16	
Phil Steele	Utah St by 16	<p><b>Utah St 33 North Dakota 17</b></p>



Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Kent St By 13.5	<p>First meeting. The Keydets played in the FCS spring season &amp; were the Southern Conf Champs finishing 6-2 including a 31-24 loss to James Madison in the opening round of the FCS playoffs. Their head coach Scott Wachenheim was FCS coach of the year because they had not had a winning record in 38 YEARS dating back to 1981! They run the Air Raid offense and Seth Morgan stepped right in throwing for 343.5 ypg (1374, 71%, 10-4) as a first time starter in the spring. The D allowed 497 ypg in '19 and improved to 346 ypg in the spring but do return just 5 starters back. In the opener they did beat Davidson 45-24 but allowed 260 (4.6) rush and were actually outgained 336-333 but did lead 45-17. Kent only trailed Texas A&amp;M 10-3 H (273-165 yd). A&amp;M got 36 yd FG then 85 yd IR TD by O'Neal, 63 yd TD run by Achane, 53/7 drive TD lead 34-3 11:31 Bkp QB Schlee led Kent 75/10 for TD 8:23. A&amp;M recover onside 44/4 TD 41-10 and Kent miss 24 yd FG at :00. Kent has Iowa on deck but last year put up 50 ppg and 600 ypg and will want to get the offense rolling here after just 10 points last week. Kent is 1-3 ATS vs FCS foes and only beat Kennesaw St 26-23 in 2019 but VMI is 0-21 SU vs FBS team and their last 5 are 1-4 ATS with the average loss by 53.6 ppg. I like Kent's offense in this one.</p>
Las Vegas Total		60.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Kent St By 26.5	
Game Grade		Kent St By 35.7	
Computer Yards		Kent St 814-189	
Computer Points		Kent St 56-23	
Phil Steele		Kent St by 28	
			<b>Best Bet: ★ Kent St 52 VMI 24</b>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Wake Forest By 43	<p>1st meeting. WF has covered 2 straight vs FCS foes and have won their last 4 by 42 ppg. The Spartans didn't play in 2020. They've covered their last 4 vs FBS foes with a half point cover (+39') in a 49-10 loss to Toledo last week. Toledo blocked 2 punts for TD's and got a 24 yd TD run with :27 left in 1H to lead Norfolk St 28-7 with only a 165-126 yard edge. UT open 3Q 50/7 TD recover fmbI KR but SOD at 2. NW 75/5 but int at 16. UT 84 yd TD pass to Maddox 42-7. NW 59/9 SOD 9 1:09 3Q. NW 32 yd FG UT 80/8 TD 7:35 and took knee 4&amp;1 NW 27 1:50 left. Wake has a big home game vs Florida St on deck. Spartans were supposed to play in the spring but opted out in February &amp; their HC left in March. NSU finished 5-7 but that included a 24-21 loss to Old Dominion &amp; 46-7 loss to Coastal Carolina. Norfolk St. has been mired in mediocrity since their last winning season in '11. NSU had posted a record of 4-7 in five of the previous seven seasons headed into '19. NSU went 5-7 in '19 and Dawson Odums (63-32 at Southern) took over in 2021 after Norfolk did not play in either last fall or this past spring. When not playing nearby rival Old Dominion, Norfolk is 0-10 vs FBS schools (4-4 ATS) with the average loss by 37.3 ppg. Wake opened with a half point cover vs Old Dominion (-31') 42-10. WF up 7-3 got a 99 yd KRET TD by Taylor (WF 2nd KR TD, s/2008) and led 28-3 at half with only 8-7 FD edge but were SOD on last play of half at ODU 1. WF led 42-3 when ODU went 55/8 for TD 2:22 left. Last week Vegas had both these teams pegged right on the money and my computer says they do again this week.</p>
Las Vegas Total	61.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Wake Forest By 49.3	
Game Grade	Wake Forest By 25.8	
Computer Yards	Wake Forest 737-78	
Computer Points	Wake Forest 54-10	
Phil Steele	Wake Forest by 44	<p><b>Wake Forest 54 Norfolk St 10</b></p>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line			<p>MSU won both previous mtgs with YSU, 55-17 (-23') in '13 &amp; 28-6 (-34') in '11. The Spartans have only played 2 FCS opponents since then, beating Jacksonville St (45-7, -34') in '14 &amp; Furman (28-13, -37') in '16. YSU last played an FBS foe in 2018 &amp; lost to #14 WVU (+29) 52-17. However, dating back to 2010 the Penguins are 7-2 ATS vs FBS foes including an outright upset of Pitt 31-17 back in 2012. YSU is coached by Doug Phillips who is in year #2 &amp; he went just 1-6 last year taking over for Bo Pelini. QB's Mark Waid (527, 64%, 3-4, 283 rush) started 7 gms &amp; Joe Craycraft (176, 48%, 1-0) started 1 gm &amp; they both return. The top RB McLaughlin returns &amp; the top 4 receivers are back. This past spring the OL had to replace 4 st'rs and slipped to 167 (3.9) with 10.6% sacks. The unit returns intact and should be improved. Overall the offense was dead last in the MVFC at 267 ypg and 15 ppg and is much more experienced as they had just 2 starters back on offense and now have all 11. This year the Penguins defense returns 14 of the top 16 tacklers only losing DB Jaelin Madison (9 tkl) and DE Ty Eddington (9 tkl). This should be a decent YSU defense with all 11 starters back from a unit that allowed just 313 ypg. Both LB Grant Dixon (1st tm) DB Zaire Jones (3rd team) made the Preseason All-MVFC team. They are still a young squad and will have to battle this season to try and escape the basement in the powerful MVFC. Last week they opened strong with a 44-41 OT win over a solid Incarnate Word team. Jaleel McLaughlin rushed for a super 242 yards (8.3). Michigan St had a solid crowd at Northwestern. Kenneth Walker ran for 264 yds and 4 TD including a 75 yd TD run on games first play. MST led 21-0 til NW went 62/15/6:44 for TD on 4&amp;G with :59 left in half. NW got to 31 21 but MST recover onside and 52/4 TD 1:29 left 38-21. The Spartans do have Miami Florida and Nebraska on deck and are off a big win but were very impressive in the opener.</p>
		Michigan St By 25.5	
Las Vegas Total			
		51.5 Points	
+/- Ratings			
		Michigan St By 35.0	
Game Grade			
		Michigan St By 32.5	
Computer Yards			
		Michigan St 663-32	
Computer Points			
		Michigan St 44-8	
Phil Steele			
		Michigan St by 28	
			Michigan St 44 Youngstown St 16

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Georgia Tech By 17.5	<p>First meeting. KSt is led by HC Brian Bohannon, formerly assistant at GT under Paul Johnson. The Owls went 4-1 in spring. In '19 they lost in the 2nd round of FCS playoffs. GT lost to The Citadel in '19 in Geoff Collins first year. Keenesaw St does run the option offense which GT has gotten away from. Kennesaw got off to a slow start only beating Reinhardt 35-25 in the opener. They have taken on just 2 FBS teams in their young existence but only lost at Kent St 26-23 and at Georgia St 24-20. Speaking of slow starts GTech was -21 vs Northern Illinois but lost at home on a late 2 point conversion. GT did have a 429-301 yard edge and 25-15 FD edge. Tech has Clemson/North Carolina and Pitt on deck. My computer shows Tech with a dominating win and they are off a loss but with those big games on deck and now facing the cut blocking of the option, they may want to play it safe. QB Sims was injured last week and missed the 2H and they may rest him as well to keep him healthy.</p>
Las Vegas Total	53.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Georgia Tech By 32.0	
Game Grade	Georgia Tech By 54.0	
Computer Yards	Georgia Tech 696-26	
Computer Points	Georgia Tech 45-8	
Phil Steele	Georgia Tech by 25	<p><b>Georgia Tech 42 Kennesaw St 17</b></p>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Northwestern By 29.5	<p>1st meeting. The Sycamores haven't played since a 51-24 loss to Missouri St on Nov 23, 2019 (645 days prior to their '21 opener). NW lost 9-7 (-12') to Illinois St in '16 in their last game vs an FCS foe. The 'Cats are 3-5 ATS vs FCS foes while Indiana St is 11-3 ATS vs FBS foes. They've lost 6 straight vs FBS foes by 23 ppg. After finishing 0-11 in Curt Mallory's first year (-196 ypg), ISt bounced back in '18 with the largest win total increase of the season, going 7-4 in but were -28 ypg and they just missed out on the FCS playoffs. The Sycamores went 5-7 in '19 despite improving to +7 ypg. They sat out the spring and return with 12 starters from '19 (6 on both sides). Northwestern is #130 on my Exp Chart with just 8 starters back but are more exp'd than Indiana St. The Sycamores opened their year with a 26-21 win over Eastern Illinois but QB Thompson hit just 13-23-87 and they were out FD'd 21-13 and outgained 378-245. I am never wild about using Northwestern as a big favorite as Pat Fitzgerald excels at motivating his team as a dog but they need a feel good game after that rough opener.</p>
Las Vegas Total	47.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Northwestern By 33.5	
Game Grade	Northwestern By 56.9	
Computer Yards	Northwestern 670-37	
Computer Points	Northwestern 42-6	
Phil Steele	Northwestern by 31	<p><b>Northwestern 41 Indiana St 10</b></p>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Auburn By 51.5	<p>Auburn won only previous meeting vs Alabama St in 2018 63-9 (-61'). Prior to last year the Tigers had played an FCS team each year for 13 straight seasons, winning by 34.8 ppg. However the Tigers are just 3-9 ATS vs FCS foes since 2009. Dating back to 2011 ASU is 6-2 ATS vs FBS foes and nearly upset UAB (lost 24-19) as 39-pt dogs in 2019. ASU last had a winning record in 2015 (6-5) and in their last full ssn in '19 ASU went 5-6 overall &amp; 4-3 in SWAC play. The Hornets are coached by Donald Hill-Eley who has been the HC there since '17 and he is 17-17 during his tenure here. The Hornets went 3-3 (1 win via forfeit of opponent) in spring '21 and they return 9 st'rs on offense including QB Ryan Nettles who threw for 917 yds LY (59%, 8-5) and was named SWAC freshman of the year. The OL did allow 13 sks in 5 gms but they bring back all 5 st'rs from a unit that paved the way for 154 rush ypg (4.2) last ssn. They have 9 starters back on each side of the ball. Last week they just got past Miles College 14-13. Auburn had the most pts ever for a HC debut (37 prev high) and Bo Nix taking snaps under center hit 20-22 passes. Auburn led 37-0 at half (382-74) with Akron twice SOD in its own territory. Nix played 1 series 2H. Akron bkp QB DJ Irons hit 13-13-129 and down 46-0 led a TD and late FG Drive but Aub then went 65/5 for TD :28 left and 60-10 win. The Tigers do have a huge game at Penn St on deck. The last time Harsin faced an FCS team was 2015 and they were off a big game (loss) vs BYU with a Friday night vs Virginia on deck but beat Idaho St 52-0.</p>
Las Vegas Total		57.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Auburn By 58.3	
Game Grade		Auburn By 77.8	
Computer Yards		Auburn 791--81	
Computer Points		Auburn 58-0	
Phil Steele		Auburn by 55	<b>Auburn 58 Alabama St 3</b>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Ohio By 27.5	<p>Only prior meeting was a 14-13 Ohio win in 1948. Dukes were 4-1 last season with their only loss in OT in the NEC Championship game. Dukes last FBS foe was UMass in '18 (lost 63-15). Duquesne is a member of the NEC &amp; went 4-1 in the FCS Spring season. Jerry Schmidt enters his 17th season with 8 conference titles under Schmidt including 5 in the NEC and 2 playoff berths ('15 &amp; '18). In '18 the Dukes went 8-3 in the regular season (+80 ypg vs FCS) with 2 losses vs FBS foes and a 1 pt loss. They won their first FCS playoff game vs Towson then were blown out by SDSU, finishing 9-3. In '19 the Dukes were 6-5 their worst since 2014. Only 7 starters returned in the spring for Duquesne, yet they were 4-0 before losing the NEC Title game despite a +91 yd edge. They have 14 FBS transfers and with 16 starters back including 10 on defense, they will make another run at an NEC Title. They were 2-1 ATS vs FBS teams but only have faced Buffalo in '14, UMass and Hawaii. Last week at TCU the teams agreed to play 12 minute quarters in the 2H as TCU led 35-0 at half with a 20-2 FD and 335-20 yd edge. Duquesne coach Schmitt said their bkps were Division III type players. Duggan did not play the 2H. Duquesne lost QB Mischler (Ohio U transfer) in the 1Q. TCU led 38-3 after 3Q in 45-3 win (-42). Ohio had a 171-139 yd edge at half vs Syracuse but trailed 12-6 and they lost 29-9 with Syracuse only having a 383-346 yd edge. Ohio need a win so wont look ahead to the Thursday night game at Louisiana.</p>
Las Vegas Total		48.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Ohio By 23.0	
Game Grade		Ohio By 1.9	
Computer Yards		Ohio 620-121	
Computer Points		Ohio 41-10	
Phil Steele		Ohio by 31	<div>Ohio 41 Duquesne 10</div>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		C Michigan By 37.5	<p>First meeting. This is just the Colonial's 2nd ever FBS foe (lost to Buffalo 38-10 as a 46' pt AD). Last year Robert Morris's first in the Big South Conf, they went 0-3 (2 gm cancelled) including a 36-16 loss to JMU. In 2019 they had their first winning season since 2010 at 7-5 but a disturbing sign was that they were -60 ypg in league play. They were expected to join the Big South in the fall of 2021 but were let in early in the spring. They opened with #2 James Madison and lost 36-16 then faced #7 Keenesaw St and lost 35-0. In what turned out to be their third and final game they lost to Charleston Southern 27-14. On the season they were 0-3 and were -160 ypg and lost by an avg of 33-10. Since 2010 they have 2 winning seasons but have been outgained every year and by an average of 121 ypg! They were pegged dead last in the Big South Media poll and have just one player LB Aniello Buzzacco on the preseason All Big South team. Bernard Clark did wonders with the defense in 2019 and should have his best unit in his 4 years. The offense will be improved but looks mediocre. They had their opening game vs Dayton cancelled. Central Michigan was without HC McElwain last week at Missouri. Missouri had 9 sacks. MO 63 yd pass first play 75/2 TD CM went 75/5 TD CM int at 47 7-7 1Q CM 88/7 TD 6:03 led 14-7 MO 65/9 TD 2:25 MO 53 yd FG :00 17-14 H CM 292-219 yds H MO SOD CM 23 punt 61/6 TD 24-14 1:51 3Q CM 73/14 TD 11:52 MO 75/9 TD 7:58 CM 2 5:07 65/14 51 YD FG 31-24 1:28 MO 11 BADIE 69 yd run 62/5 44 yd FG :59 34-24 final. CMich should win comfortably but do have LSU on deck.</p>
Las Vegas Total		53.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		C Michigan By 36.2	
Game Grade		C Michigan By 91.1	
Computer Yards		C Michigan 735-28	
Computer Points		C Michigan 48-8	
Phil Steele		C Michigan by 40	<p><b>Central Michigan 48 Robert Morris 8</b></p>



Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line			<p>Cincy faced FCS Austin Peay last year after not facing an FCS opponent in '19. Bearcats beat the Governors 55-20 but did not cover (-38.5). Cincy is only 1-4 ATS in last 5 vs FCS foes. Dating back to 1998 Murray St hasn't defeated an FBS foe but more recently is 4-2 ATS against FBS teams. In 2019 Murray St played 2 FBS foes &amp; lost 45-0 at Toledo (+42') and 63-17 at Georgia (+49). The 2nd year HC is Dean Hood, who helped turn Murray St around LY. Murray St started the 2021 spring season 5-0 (tied best start in program history) before dropping their L/2 to finish 5-2, which was their first winning season since 2011! QB Preston Rice started all 7 LY &amp; threw for 1294 (53%, 9-5) and was 2nd Tm OVC. He returns this ssn along with #1 Witherspoon (499, 4.7) who was also 2nd Tm OVC. The top 4 WR's return for MSU led by 1st Tm OVC WR LaMarte Brooks (429, 11.6). LY MSU's OL paved the way for 142 rush ypg (3.9) and all'd just 5 sks on 181 pass att! All 5 starters back along this OLine &amp; overall all 11 st'rs on offense are back! The DLine was solid vs the run early on LY but over their L/3 games the Racers gave up 222 rush ypg (5.2). MSU was outgained in 5 of their 7 gms but the defense did finish the ssn +7 in TO's. Overall Murray St returns 11 st'rs on defense. They opened strong beating Miss Valley St 35-0 with a 455-162 yd edge. Cincy is off rival Miami,OH with a huge game at Indiana on deck. Cincy led Miami 42-0 early 4Q but Miami went 75/13 for TD then got an IR TD two plays later with 2:30 left. Cincy went 83/7 ofr a TD with :23 for a 49-14 final. Cincy is 12-6-1 ATS as a HF the last 4 years.</p>
		Cincinnati By 35.5	
Las Vegas Total			
		51.5 Points	
+/- Ratings			
		Cincinnati By 40.3	
Game Grade			
		Cincinnati By 47.3	
Computer Yards			
		Cincinnati 734--24	
Computer Points			
		Cincinnati 51-6	
Phil Steele			
		Cincinnati by 42	
			<b>Cincinnati 51 Murray St 9</b>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Alabama By 53.5	<p>Last met in 2017 when Bama was -50 and won 56-0. Bama is 10-0 vs FCS foes under Saban, winning by 45 ppg. Bears went 5-6 last season, losing to Army 49-3. They played 8 of their games in the spring. Last week Bama looked like the best team in the country. QB Young hit 27-38-344 and the Tide led 27-0 before Miami crossed midfield. Down 27-3 Miami was SOD on 4&amp;G at 1 then after almost getting a safety gave up a 94 yd TD pass. Ala led 41-3 when Miami got 75/7 TD then short FG 41-13 after 3Q 44-13 final. Mercer was a solid 5-6 last year losing to 3 teams in the fall but going 5-3 in SoCon play winning 4 of their last 5 under new head coach Drew Crowe. He returns 8 starters on offense and 11 on defense and they add in Coastal Carolina transfer Fred Payton. Bama is 4-5 ATS vs FCS teams and has alternated covers and losses the last 8 years. They covered in 2019 66-3 vs Western Carolina so in that pattern it is time for a non cover. Mercer is 0-6 SU vs FBS and have lost their last 3 by 49 ppg. Mercer opened its year with a 69-0 win over Point university but takes a little step up in class here. Bama will get to play a lot of players and are in a major sandwich game off Miami with Florida on deck.</p>
Las Vegas Total	60.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Alabama By 62.5	
Game Grade	Alabama By 42.5	
Computer Yards	Alabama 838--72	
Computer Points	Alabama 60-0	
Phil Steele	Alabama by 55	<h2>Alabama 58 Mercer 3</h2>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Clemson By 34.5	<p>Clemson is 5-2 ATS vs FCS foes s/'14, winning by 51.1 ppg. Last year the Tigers led The Citadel 49-0 at half then played walk-ons the rest of the game which resulted in a scoreless 2H. The Tigers are 4-0 all-time, winning by 55 ppg vs SCSt with all 4 meetings taking place since 2008. SCSt went 8-3, finishing with a 3 game win streak and were +46 ypg in '19 and their only 2 FCS losses were by a combined 6 pts but did suffer a 39 pt loss to USF. The Bulldogs went 3-1 spring but were -45 ypg and all 3 wins were by 8 pts or less with the offense held to 17 pts or less in each of their F/3 games. SCSt has lost their last 9 vs FBS foes by 41 ppg and are on a 3-8 ATS run vs FBS foes including 1-5 ATS vs P5 foes. SCSt returns 16 starters from '19's squad including QB Corey Fields who only hit 49% w/a 2-5 ratio in spring but did have a 15-5 ratio in '19. They do have to replace all 4 starters from '19's Dline. Clemson had lost just one regular season game the last 3 years and beat Pitt 52-17 (-24) last year. Last week Georgia had 7 sacks and held Clemson to 2 yds rush in a defensive struggle with the only TD a 74 yd IR TD with 2:58 left 1H to give Georgia 7-0 lead. Down 10-0 Clemson went 82/10 for 22 yd FG 9:08 then were SOD on 4&amp;5 and UGA 45 4:48 and Dogs ran out clock. Clemson needs to get its offense going with ACC play starting next week. South Carolina St opened the year with a 42-41 loss to Alabama A&amp;M allowing 569 yards. They will be outmatched for the first half, but Swinney will go deep in the 2H as Clemson has traditionally used over 100 players in these types of games. Still, there are major questions right now about that Clemson offense and Swinney will want to get that unit up to speed.</p>
Las Vegas Total		52.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Clemson By 57.5	
Game Grade		Clemson By 71.3	
Computer Yards		Clemson 787--157	
Computer Points		Clemson 64-0	
Phil Steele		xxxx	<p><b>Clemson 61 South Carolina St 3</b></p>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	W Michigan By 11	<p>Broncos are 7-1 in series (loss 1987) including a 48-7 win in their last meeting in 2001. The Redbirds went 1-3 last season before opting out of the rest of the season due to injuries &amp; Covid issues. Brock Spack has led Illinois St to 5 FCS playoff appearances and won B2B MVC Titles in '14-'15. They only won 6 games each in '16, '17 and '18 then broke through in '19, going 10-5 losing in the quarterfinals to NDSt 9-3. The RedBirds finished -3 ypg. In spring they had to replace RB James Robinson who rushed for 1,917 (5.3) in '19 then went on to top 1,000 yds as a rookie in the NFL. Also gone was their 1st Tm MVC DE. They only went 1-3 in spring but held all 4 foes to 300 yds or less and was +64 ypg. Only 8 starters still remain from '19 and they lost 2 more transfers to FBS programs on defense after spring. Illinois St has covered 2 of their last 3 vs FBS foes with B2B outright upset wins over NW in '16 and Colo St in '18. They lost to NIU in '19 but that game was tied 10-10 4Q and NIU's late pick 6 made it a 14 point game. WM is on a 9-3 ATS run vs FCS foes, with 8 straight wins (6-2 ATS) by 33.6 ppg. Illinois St rolled over Butler in the opener 49-7. They are actually 2-1 SU vs FBS team upsetting Northwestern in 2016 and Colorado St in 2018!</p>
Las Vegas Total	55.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	W Michigan By 16.8	
Game Grade	W Michigan By 34.4	
Computer Yards	W Michigan 680-75	
Computer Points	W Michigan 41-13	
Phil Steele	W Michigan by 17	<b>Western Michigan 37 Illinois St 20</b>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	W Virginia By 26.5	<p>Sixth straight season the Mountaineers will face an FCS opponent. WVU have won each of their last 10 games against FCS teams but are only 3-7 ATS. The Sharks went 10-2 in Division II play in 2018 but in their move up to the FCS they went just 0-10 SU and were -136 ypg in FCS play. In the spring they showed improvement and went 2-2 with wins over Bryant and Merrimack (also new to FCS. This is only the 4th year of program and 1st ever mtg vs an FBS opponent. LIU competes in the NEC and played 4 games, going 2-2. Long Island played two good FCS teams in 2019 and lost those by 38-3 to South Dakota St and 35-7 to Villanova. Last week they were +33' vs FIU. Devonte Price rushed for 165 yds and 3 TD's on just 5 carries. LIU did have two 14 play drives in 1H but trail 21-0 and 28-10 at half despite 11-10 FD edge with FIU having big plays and 323-237 yd edge. It was 38-10 after 3Q and FIU last TD 1:30 left gave them the cover. West Virginia is in a Mayland/Virg Tech sandwich but is also off a loss as a favorite. WV led 21-17 but MD got a FG with :22 left in the half for momentum. WV was -4 in TO's and lost 30-24 and were outgained 496-325. Neal Brown is 21-8 ATS off a SU loss.</p>
Las Vegas Total	55.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	W Virginia By 62.3	
Game Grade	W Virginia By 106.9	
Computer Yards	W Virginia 744--92	
Computer Points	W Virginia 58-0	
Phil Steele	W Virginia by 52	<p><b>West Virginia 52 Long Island 0</b></p>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Wash St By 13.5	<p>The last time the Cougars and Vikings met, PSU sprung a 24-17 upset, helping interim coach Bruce Barnum secure the full-time gig in Portland. Barnum, whose son Brody plays for WSU's baseball team, was the Big Sky Coach of the Year in 2015, but his Vikings have gone just 12-33 in four seasons since. The Cougars are 2-1 vs the Vikings, winning the first two games 48-9 (-12') in '08 and 59-21 (-23) in '14. LTH ('15), WSU was a 30-pt HF but PSU earned its first win vs the Pac-12 topping WSU, 24-17. Portland St was led by run and shoot architect Mouse Davis from 1975-80, Jerry Glanville from 2007-09, Pac 12 commentator Nigel Burton from 2010-'14 and Bruce Barnum since 2015. The Vikings only played 1 gm last year &amp; last made the FCS playoffs in 2015. The backdoor was left open in both of these teams opener. Hawaii led 28-0 Portlands St after 1Q. Up 28-7 they had a 1&amp;G at the 2 but fumbled. It was 35-7 at half. and 42-14 late 3Q. Port St went 51/7 for garbage TD with 1:10 left in 49-35 final. Wash St led Utah St 23-11 4Q but went 70/14 for a TD with 5:25 left then 78/10 including a 4&amp;3 conversion and their 7 yd TD pass with :11 left gave them the upset. Wash St has USC and Utah on deck and need a win. Since the Cougars blew a big lead last week they will not let up in the 2H and had Hawaii kept its foot on the pedal last week they could have won by 40+. I will agree with my computers forecast on this one.</p>
Las Vegas Total		57.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Wash St By 38.5	
Game Grade		Wash St By 15.6	
Computer Yards		Wash St 760-128	
Computer Points		Wash St 53-15	
Phil Steele		Wash St by 36	<p><b>Best Bet: ★ Washington St 53 Portland St 17</b></p>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Utsa By 12.5	<p>First meeting. Lamar was just 2-9 in '17 (-84 ypg) and started '18 just 1-4 then went on a remarkable run, winning 6 straight to earn their first FCS playoff berth, losing 16-13 at Northern Iowa. In '19 Lamar had to replace their QB, #1 rusher, top 2 WR's, and only had 12 starters back. The Cardinals started 5-2 but they lost 3 QB's to injury and lost their last 5 by 19 ppg and Mike Schultz wasn't retained as HC. Former Air Force co-OC Blane Morgan was named HC and Lamar went 2-4 in spring with all 4 losses coming by 32 pts or more and they were -245 ypg. The Cardinals have lost the last 3 vs FBS foes by 60 ppg (0-3 ATS). UTSA is 8-0 SU vs current FCS schools since joining FBS. Last year RoadRunners only beat SF Austin 24-10 but that was Traylor's 2nd game after no spring. UTSA got the season started strongly leading Illinois almost the entire game and pulling the road upset 37-30. Lamar opened the season with an impressive blowout 47-3 with a 437-138 yd edge. Impressive that is until you look at their opponent which was North American a "college" that did not even have a logo and is being compared to the Bishop Sycamore high school team at the college level.</p>
Las Vegas Total	44.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Utsa By 49.8	
Game Grade	Utsa By 28.1	
Computer Yards	Utsa 730--12	
Computer Points	Utsa 47-6	
Phil Steele	Utsa by 41	<b>UTSA 47 Lamar 6</b>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Charlotte By 18.5	<p>Last met in '19's season opener, Charlotte won 49-28 (-32.5). Charlotte is 2-1 all-time vs GW. The Runnin' Bulldogs went 2-2 in spring. GW has lost 12 straight vs P5 foes but is 5-2 ATS since 2014. These teams are very close to each other in North Carolina. The Runnin' Bulldogs have been an FCS tm since '02 &amp; have never made the playoffs. HC Tre Lamb, who was a decorated QB at Tennessee Tech ('08-'12), is entering his second season with Gardner-Webb. Lamb enjoyed a terrific start to his tenure, as his very first game as a HC at any level was an impressive 42-20 upset win over #24 Elon. GW has not experienced at least a .500 season since '13. . Gardner Webb did lose their QB from the spring (only 3-7 ratio). In the opener GW was +32.5 vs Georgia Southern and led 6-3 early. They trailed 23-18, 30-18 then got a TD with 2:59 left in 30-25 loss and were only outgained 500-427. Charlotte got the home upset vs Duke scoring the GW TD with :33 left in the win. Charlotte is off a big win and just 1-4 ATS as a HF under Healy.</p>
Las Vegas Total	58.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Charlotte By 40.0	
Game Grade	Gardner-Webb By 0.0	
Computer Yards	Charlotte 692-111	
Computer Points	Charlotte 45-15	
Phil Steele	Charlotte by 21	<p><b>Charlotte 38 Gardner-Webb 17</b></p>



Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Ucf By 34.5	<p>UCF had faced an FCS opponent six straight seasons up until last year. Teams last met in '14, a 41-7 (-27') Knights win. UCF is 8-1 SU vs FCS foes since '09 (lost 16-15 vs Furman in '15) and are 5-4 ATS in those matchups. Bethune-Cookman lost 63-0 at Miami in '19 but did cover 3 straight vs FBS in '17-'18. Bethune-Cookman has 2 wins against FBS foes since 2011 and both of those wins came against FIU in B2B years in 2013 and 2014. BC was a member of the MEAC from 1979-2020 but now are a member of the SWAC. Terry Sims is the HC &amp; has been here since 2015 and is 34-21 overall. BC is off their first game in over a year and needed to replace their QB and top rusher from 2019. BC returns 4 st'rs on the OL. The defense returned just four of it's top 15 tacklers and they lost two-time AA KR Jimmie Robinson. Last week UTEP had a pair of 100 yd rushers. UTEP led 10-0 after 1Q (7-1 FD) then punted from BC 33 mid 2Q. 10-0 H with 212-78 yd edge. BC recover fumble at Utep 6 2nd play 3Q and got TD. UTEP led 31-14 10:40 left. BC 87/9 TD 5:28 UTEP 50/6 TD 2:15 37-20 BC 25 BYRD 68 yd run TD next play 37-28 1:17 for a 38-28 final. UCF trailed Boise 21-0 in a game that was delayed but Northwestern transfer RB Bowser rushed for 172 and UCF won 36-31 with a 573-283 yd edge vs Boise. UCF should roll but does have a Friday night game vs Louisville on deck.</p>
Las Vegas Total	59.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Ucf By 58.5	
Game Grade	Ucf By 31.3	
Computer Yards	Ucf 865-35	
Computer Points	Ucf 59-6	
Phil Steele	Ucf by 48	<p><b>UCF 58 Bethune-Cookman 10</b></p>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Marshall By 39.5	<p>First meeting. The Eagles didn't play in '20. They last won the MEAC in 2016 but saw their win total drop to 6, 5 and 5 and HC Jerry Mack resigned. Trai Oliver took over as HC and they were 4-8 in '19 (-32 ypg). They still have 13 starters from '19 including QB Davius Richards (2,020 pass, 245 rush '19). They opened with a win over Alcorn St 23-14 with a 391-343. The Eagles are just 1-8-1 ATS vs FBS foes, losing by 39 ppg. Marshall has won 10 straight over FCS foes by 36 ppg. Herd beat ECU 59-0 in home opener last year but the Herd are only 3-5-1 ATS vs FCS foes. Marshall beat Navy on the road 49-7 in the opener. In the 1H Navy was SOD at UM 47, had 41 yd FG blk and down 21-0 on 1&amp;G from 5 ran for -1 on last play half with UM only a 193-178 yd edge. In 2H Navy was int at 2, SOD at 16, went 82/14 for TD 28-8 12:04 left. UM went 60/11, 49/3 and after int 30/1 for 4Q TD's 49-7 2:01 Navy to UM 6 end and Marshall only had a 464-398 yd edge.</p>
Las Vegas Total	47.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Marshall By 51.8	
Game Grade	Marshall By 38.4	
Computer Yards	Marshall 699--31	
Computer Points	Marshall 50-0	
Phil Steele	Marshall by 42	<b>Marshall 45 NC Central 3</b>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Kansas St By 30.5	<p>Wildcats have won six straight games vs FCS opponents since being upset by North Dakota St in '13 but are 3-7 ATS their last 10 vs FCS. Southern Illinois made the FCS Playoffs in the Spring but lost in 2nd Round to #1 seed South Dakota St, 31-26. This playoff trip snapped an 11-yr drought. Coach Klieman used to be the head coach at North Dakota St from '14-'18 and won his 3 meetings vs SIU by 27.3 ppg. SIU beat UMass 45-20 in 2019 and since 2009 they are 8-4 ATS against FBS foes. HC Nick Hill enters his 6th ssn &amp; is 23-32 overall but has recorded a winning record the L2Y incl 3 wins over top 5 teams last season. Neil Baker surprisingly won the QB job and threw for 460 yds and 4 TD's in the opener. Last year's #1 WR Avante Cox (Wyoming transfer) who had 838 rec yds last season had 5-187 in the opener. 4 starters are back on the OLine including ZeVeyon Furcron is 1st Tm MVFC preseason. The defense all'd just 322 ypg and 20 ppg in 2019. In the spring they returned 8 of the top 12 tacklers and the defense slipped to allowing 367 ypg and 29 ppg in conference play. This year the SIU defense has 14 of the top 16 tacklers returning with 4 ret st'rs making the preseason All-MVFC team. Southern Illinois beat SEMO 47-21 in the opener with a 553-243 yd edge. Kansas St beat Stanford in Arlington as they led 24-0 before allowing a 75/10 TD with 3:16 left. This is a quality Southern Illinois team that in the last 10 matchups vs FBS schools has been outscored by just 10.9 ppg and Kansas St is in a letdown spot with the Baker-Cox combo giving Southern Illinois back door potential as well.</p>
Las Vegas Total		54 Points	
+/- Ratings		Kansas St By 15.5	
Game Grade		Kansas St By 1.3	
Computer Yards		Kansas St 668-162	
Computer Points		Kansas St 45-20	
Phil Steele		Kansas St by 21	<b>Best Bet: ★ Southern Illinois 23 (+) Kansas St 44</b>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Oklahoma By 46.5	<p>OU has only faced six FCS foes the last 23 years but are a perfect 6-0 SU and ATS against these teams. Oklahoma has a big game vs former rival Nebraska on deck. The Catamounts went 1-8 last season and that marked the end of Mark Speir's tenure as HC after 9 ssn's. The new HC is Kerwin Bell, who was an offensive analyst at Florida LY and in '19 was the OC as USF. He also led D-II Valdosta St to a national title in 2018. WCU adds QB Rogan Wells (9026 yds of offense) who was the QB for Bell at Valdosta St. RB Spencer (718, 5.5) moves but they add a Valdosta St grad transfer Kenny Benjamin who had 765 rec yds, 265 rush yds, 1056 KR yds in 3 ssn's. The top 3 receivers are back and they add several transfers who help add exp to the unit. They bring back 3 st'rs on the OL. 9 starters return on D and they add Antwann Fann from Kennesaw St and DL Marlon Alexander &amp; DL Ronald Wilson from Gardner Webb. This team has added talent but it is tough to see them escaping the cellar of the Southern Conference. The Sooners had a closer than expected game in the opener. Tulane took a 14-7 lead but Oklahoma took control and led 37-14 at half OU led 40-22 and Tulane TD 11:28 left OU miss 31 yd FG and Tulane 50/8 TD 2:18 left then recover onside down 40-35 but 4&amp;13 12 yd run by Pratt at 44. Oklahoma was my pick to win the national title and should be dominant this week. Wells hit 24-44-275 in WC's opener but they lost at home to Eastern Kentucky 31-28 but did have a 501-361 yd edge. The Sooners let Tulane comeback from a 37-14 halftime deficit and DC Alex Grinch cannot be happy about that.</p>
Las Vegas Total		65.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Oklahoma By 65.5	
Game Grade		Oklahoma By 48.8	
Computer Yards		Oklahoma 853--42	
Computer Points		Oklahoma 63-0	
Phil Steele		Oklahoma by 53	<p><b>Oklahoma 63 Western Carolina 10</b></p>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		La Tech By 10.5	LT is 28-7-2 vs SEL but haven't met since '08. Bulldogs have won 6 straight home openers. LT 3-5 ATS vs FCS foes under Holtz. The Lions went 4-3 in spring. They've been within 11 pts vs 3 of last 4 FBS foes. The Lions are the preseason favorite to win the Southland and look like they deserve that role if the defense improves as expected. They opened with a solid 49-28 win over North Alabama with a 495-404 yard edge. LT got off to a great start and led Miss St on the road 34-14 in the 4Q but ended up losing 35-34 with a GW FG coming up short at the end. WVirg transfer Austin Kendall was solid in his debut hitting 20-36-269 and led the team with 68 rush yards. The angles lean with Southeastern (used to be Southeast Louisiana or SEL) but the talent side with LT and they are only a 10 point favorite.
Las Vegas Total		73 Points	
+/- Ratings		La Tech By 9.8	
Game Grade		La Tech By 4.5	
Computer Yards		La Tech 683-143	
Computer Points		La Tech 52-20	
Phil Steele		La Tech by 21	Louisiana Tech 41 SE Louisiana 20

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Tulane By 40.5	<p>First meeting. Tulane has had great success vs FCS opponents since '13, going a perfect 7-0 SU &amp; ATS! Tulane had their game last week moved due to Hurricane Ida &amp; this home game will be played in Alabama. The Morgan St Bears compete in the MEAC &amp; did not play a '20 season due to COVID-19. MSU is 2-1 ATS in their last 3 gms vs FBS foes. MSU is coached by former Michigan &amp; NFL RB Tyrone Wheatley who went 3-9 here in '19. In '19 Morgan St struggled to run the ball and they finished with 316 ypg and 19 ppg. Morgan St has a big question mark at the QB position (6-21-79 last week). The OL returns just 2 players with start experience. Last week they were shutout by Towson 31-0 being outgained 412-142. Tulane is off a huge effort vs Oklahoma. They led 14-7 early but trailed 37-14 at half. Tulane rallied late and had the ball down 40-35. They have Ole Miss on deck. This is a bit of a sandwich spot and the game is in Alabama but I really like that 7-0 ATS record vs FCS teams and Morgan St might be shutout a 2nd straight week.</p>
Las Vegas Total		53.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Tulane By 72.0	
Game Grade		Tulane By 50.1	
Computer Yards		Tulane 764--15	
Computer Points		Tulane 59-3	
Phil Steele		Tulane by 52	<p><b>Tulane 52 Morgan St 0</b></p>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Louisville By 28.5	<p>L'ville beat ECU 42-0 in the last meeting in '19. The Colonels played last fall, going 3-6, with losses to Marshall (59-0), WVirg (56-10) and Troy (31-29). Since 1999 Louisville is 15-0 vs FCS foes, winning by 34 ppg. ECU is 12-8 ATS against FBS foes since 2009 and pulled an upset over Miami (OH) back in 2014. L'ville is in a Ole Miss/UCF sandwich and last played just 5 days ago &amp; play UCF on short rest on a Friday. Satterfield did less hitting in practice in August knowing they were playing 3 games in 12 days. ECU is leaving the OVC and joining the Atlantic Sun conf. Last season ECU put up 376 ypg and scored 24 ppg in HC Walt Wells 1st ssn. QB Parker McKinney started the F/6 games before going OFY (1,358, 64%, 12-5). The QB unit also adds former Auburn QB Cord Sandberg (PS#22). ECU loses their top rusher Alonzo Booth (9 st, 708, 4.7) but add former Purdue RB Da'Joun Hewitt (PS#117). The WR unit loses 3 of their top 5 performers incl #1 WR Keyion Dixon (9 st, 607, 16.4, 6 td) &amp; ECU brings back a trio of starters on the OLine. Last year the defense struggled as they allowed 455 ypg and 33 ppg. ECU's front 7 was led by LB Matthew Jackson (6 st, 79 tkl, 8 tfl) and DE Kabbash Richards (9 st, 34 tkl, 6 tfl) &amp; they both return and overall the front 7 loses just 1 starter. Last season the pass defense did not fare well as they were torched for 320+ yards 5 times but they return 3 starters. They opened the year with a 31-28 win over Western Carolina. Louisville had 4 stars on offense last year and lost 3 of them only returning QB Cunningham. They were shutout in the 1H vs Ole Miss trailing 26-0 but got a FG and 3 TD's on 4 2H drives while the announcers spent a good deal of time talking about dogs in the stands and their own pets in a 43-24 loss. The Cards need to get their offense going but will probably play a lot of backups with 3 games in 12 days.</p>
Las Vegas Total		60.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Louisville By 38.3	
Game Grade		Louisville By 51.8	
Computer Yards		Louisville 705-62	
Computer Points		Louisville 46-10	
Phil Steele		Louisville by 32	<div>Louisville 42 Eastern Kentucky 10</div>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Old Dominion By 27.5	<p>ODU is 5-0 all-time vs Hampton, last met in 2016, won 54-21 (-24.5). Since joining the FBS in '13, ODU is 13-0 SU vs FCS foes but only covered 3 of last 8. Monarchs are 6-1 SU but 1-5 ATS in home openers. These two are both in Virginia Beach and Hampton coach Prunty is excited for this as he feels an upset will really help his recruiting. Hampton did not play last year and neither did ODU. In ODU's opener WF up 7-3 got a 99 yd KRET TD by Taylor (WF 2nd KR TD, s/2008) and led 28-3 at half with only 8-7 FD edge but were SOD on last play of half at ODU 1. WF led 42-3 when ODU went 55/8 for TD 2:22 left. Hampton opened with Virginia Union and Texas Tech transfer Jett Duffey hit 24-35-242 and led a 42-28 win with a 32-16 FD edge and 611-395 yard-edge. Hampton wants to make this a rivalry and excluding their bowl season of 2016 ODU is just 2-13 ATS as a HF the last 11 years.</p>
Las Vegas Total		55 Points	
+/- Ratings		Old Dominion By 31.3	
Game Grade		Hampton By 39.6	
Computer Yards		Old Dominion 588-121	
Computer Points		Old Dominion 42-11	
Phil Steele		Old Dominion by 14	<div>Old Dominion 34 Hampton 20</div>



Category Team & Margin		Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Baylor By 47.5	<p>1st meeting. Since '10 BU is 9-1 SU (4-6 ATS) vs FCS foes. Lone loss was in '17 at home vs Liberty as 30' pt chalk. The Tigers have just 3 actual wins vs FCS foes s/'18. TSU is coached by Clarence McKinney who is just 1-13 as the HC here &amp; the lone win was by forfeit. The TSU offense jumped up to 417 ypg and 22 ppg in McKinney's first year in '19 &amp; in 2 gms LY they avg'd 366 ypg and 21 ppg. The only QB with in-game experience on the roster is Jalen Brown &amp; TSU does return their top rusher from '19 and Texas St transfer Jaylin Nelson (PS#98) will be a factor this season. TSU will look to replace former 1st Tm WR Donnie Corley (1039, 14.4 in '19) &amp; they have former Tex Tech WR Jonathan Giles to help fill the void. Both LT and RT need filled, but the interior of the line returns intact. In 2019 TSU's defense allowed 553 ypg and 45 ppg! In the spring TSU allowed 316 yds/20 pts vs Prairie View A&amp;M and then 458 yds/51 pts vs Southern. DL Michael Badejo was 2nd Tm Preseason SWAC &amp; the DL returns two more with start experience. Former Preseason All-SWAC LB Julian Marcantel went down in '19 and missed the last two seasons, but returns &amp; should be one of the leaders on defense.. TSU has allowed 43.9 ppg under HC Clarence McKinney, and while the offense looks to be improved, the defense is still a work in progress. Texas Souther lost to Prairie View A&amp;M 40-17 in the opener outgained 486-274. Baylor had a 386-235 yard edge vs Texas St. Baylor got 20 yd IR TD 3:07 into game 7-0 got a 75/13 TD :36 led 14-10 H. Bay led 27-13 then SOD TST 65/10 for backdoor TD 1:19 27-20 Baylor recover onside punt :15 left. TST lateral play for SAFETY :00 29-20. Baylor only has Kansas on deck and this game features a bowl caliber team vs one of the weakest FCS squads.</p>
Las Vegas Total	57.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Baylor By 71.8	
Game Grade	Baylor By 63.3	
Computer Yards	Baylor 725--60	
Computer Points	Baylor 56-0	<p><b>Baylor 56 Texas Southern 0</b></p>
Phil Steele	Baylor by 56	

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Texas Tech By 31	<p>TT has faced SF Austin three times since the turn of the century, winning those games by a combined score of 188-33. The Lumberjacks compete in the Southland Conf and finished 6-4 last season &amp; played all 10 games in the fall of 2020. These teams last met in 2016 and TT was -38 and won 69-17. TT barely beat FCS Houston Baptist last season (35-33) &amp; that broke a streak of TT covering 4 straight games vs FCS foes. SF Austin has lost 7 of their last 9 gms ATS vs FBS foes. SF Austin is led by 3rd year HC Colby Carthel, who previously won a national title at D-II Tex A&amp;M-Commerce in 2017. JUCO transfer QB Trae Self threw for 2550 (53.4%, 12-12) in 2019 &amp; threw for 2008 (58.3%, 15-7) last season &amp; returns for another year. RB Jaquarion Turner led with 541 rush yds (4.1) last season and he returns this ssn along with former Tex Tech RB Da'Leon Ward (265, 4.7 LY). The SF Austin OL had to replace 3 starters in '20 and they improved to 125 (3.7) rush. The good news for '21 is the unit returns intact. In 2019 the defense allowed 453 ypg and 35 ppg. In 2020 they had 8 of the top 10 tkl'rs back allowed just 372 ypg and 22 ppg. All 11 starters are back for the SF Austin defense and this should be their best defense in nearly a decade. There is pressure for Tech to get to a bowl this year and Houston led them 14-0 last week before they could even run a single play on offense (UH recover onside). Tech was +3 in TO's and took their first lead with :29 left in 3Q 24-21 but won 38-21. SF Austin beat Tarleton St 20-10 with a 399-327 yard-edge.</p>
Las Vegas Total		51.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Texas Tech By 28.8	
Game Grade		Texas Tech By 47.3	
Computer Yards		Texas Tech 729-23	
Computer Points		Texas Tech 48-6	
Phil Steele		Texas Tech by 42	<p><b>Texas Tech 48 SF Austin 6</b></p>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		S Miss By 24.5	<p>First meeting. Grambling is on short rest after playing Tenn St at the Pro Football HOF in Canton on Sunday. SMiss has won the last 14 vs FCS foes and prior to last year had won the previous 4 by 49 ppg but trailed NAla 10-7 at half and won 24-13. SM is on a 3-1 ATS run vs FCS foes. Grambling is 5-3 ATS vs FBS foes and only lost to LT 20-14 in '19 (+30'). Broderick Fobbs led the Tigers to SWAC Titles in '15, '16 and '17 but dropped to 6-5 in B2B ssns in '18 &amp; '19 then went 0-4 in spring (-115 ypg). GSU must replace a 3Y st'g QB who also led in rushing in '19 and their top 3 WR's from '19 are gone as well and they only have 6 of their top 15 tkl'rs back from '19's squad. Elijah Walker hit 4-11-43 in the 16-10 win over Tenn St (spoiling Eddie Georges HC debut) and led the team with 77 rush yards. SM does have Troy on deck but after a near loss to an FCS foe LY and a loss to South Alabama to open the year they will not look past this one. SMiss had a 19-13 FD edge in that game but a 4-1 TO deficit. New HC Hall wants to reestablish the Rock as a tough place to play and gets a comfortable win.</p>
Las Vegas Total		45.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		S Miss By 29.8	
Game Grade		S Miss By 23.5	
Computer Yards		S Miss 655--11	
Computer Points		S Miss 41-6	
Phil Steele		S Miss by 35	<p><b>Southern Miss 41 Grambling St 6</b></p>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Louisiana By 17.5	<p>Will be 3rd meeting. Last matchup was back in '13 when LA won easily (70-7, +315 yds). The Colonels are coached by former Cajuns asst Tim Rebowe, who is 38-30 with 3 playoff app in 6 season's. Nicholls entered 2019 off of B2B winning seasons after going a decade without a winning season (6-5 in 2007). The Colonels went 14-4 in conference play in '18 &amp; '19 and had come close to beating teams like Texas A&amp;M (24-14 loss) in '17 and Georgia (26-24 loss) in '16. Nicholls did beat Kansas in '18 26-23 and finished 9-4 after a 41-24 second-round playoff loss to Eastern Washington. Expectations were high under 5th year HC Tim Rebowe (25-22), who had truly turned this program around in his time here. in '19 At 4-4 they reeled off 4 straight wins to make the playoffs then beat North Dakota in round one 24-6. Unfortunately, they ran into North Dakota St the next week and lost 37-13. Last year Nicholls lost their QB and top RB Julien Gums was banged up. They still opened 3-0 including wins over Lincoln (87-3) and Lamar (55-0). They only beat NW St 31-24 despite a 29-12 FD edge and +241 in yards and appeared ready for their showdown with Sam Houston St. Despite only being out FD'd 23-19 they were pounded 71-17. Nicholls recovered and beat Incarnate Word to move to 4-1 but lost their last two to finish 4-3. They had a 3-0 start where the Colonels were +385 ypg but they were actually -47 ypg in their 1-3 finish. Lindsay Scott stepped into the starters role at QB last year and was dynamic with 1684 pass (58.1%) with a 18-7 ratio and was also the teams leading rusher with 557 (6.1). Julien Gums rushed for 1232 (5.8) in 2019 and was banged up last year but both return. In the opener my computer had Memphis 51-23 over ranked Nicholls but QB Gunnell was a late scratch and Seth Hennigan was first true frosh QB to start here since 2011 and hit 19-32-265. Nicholls open 75/11 TD to lead 7-0 but Mem score next 32 pts with scores on first 9 poss (4 FG) in 42-17 (-23') win with 587-299 yd edge. Louisiana went to Texas ULL opened 0-4 on 3rd down but led 3-0 and Texas went 70/11 and 62/14 for TD and 65/9 for a miss FG and led 14-3 H. Texas 65/8 TD ULL 79/12 TD open 3Q but onside kick and Texas 48/6 for TD and bkp QB Thompson led 83/10 TD drive 35-12. Ull 75/9 TD. Texas 49 yd FG after recover onside and ULL fmb1 UT 17 3:36. Louisiana had high expectations this year and Napier is 6-3-1 ATS off a loss. Louisiana is a solid 9-1 SU and 8-2 ATS vs FCS teams since 2012 while Nicholls is on a 1-4 ATS run the last 5 vs FBS.</p>
Las Vegas Total		62.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Louisiana By 15.3	
Game Grade		Louisiana By 25.4	
Computer Yards		Louisiana 694-101	
Computer Points		Louisiana 47-18	
Phil Steele		Louisiana by 27	<p><b>Louisiana 45 Nicholls St 18</b></p>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Maryland By 45	<p>Maryland won 52-13 (-50) in '16 &amp; 79-0 (-31) in '19. Last time here, the Terps fell 1 point shy of the school record for pts (80) and had a 623-68 edge in total yards en route to their 10th straight season opening win in Locksley's debut. MD has covered 6 of their L/8 over FCS foes. Howard has failed to cover their L/2 vs FCS foes but they did cover 5 straight from '16-'18 including the biggest upset in FBS history, beating UNLV as a 45 pt dog in '17. Howard went 7-4 in '17 but dipped to 4-7 in '18 (+22 ypg) then 2-10 in '19 (-152 ypg) with 9 of their 10 losses coming by 21+ pts. Former Tenn OC Larry Scott took over as HC in '20. They played two games in spring, losing both by 7 &amp; 9 pts which looks better but they actually lost both to Delaware St, one of the 2 teams they actually beat in '19. The Bison still have 12 starters back from '19 including QB Quinton Williams Maryland is off West Virginia and has a Friday night Big Ten opener on deck. The Terps trailed WV 21-17 but got a FG with :22 left in the half for momentum. They were +4 in TO's and won 30-24 with a solid 496-325 yard edge. Howard opened the season with a 38-14 loss to Richmond and that was the score after 3Q. The Terps have a lot of explosive playmakers and could get back towards that 80 spot if they wanted but with Illinois on deck they may rest starters in 2H. Still I think they cover the 45 point spread with an explosive win and will agree with my computers forecast.</p>
Las Vegas Total		57.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Maryland By 63.0	
Game Grade		N/A	
Computer Yards		Maryland 782-5	
Computer Points		Maryland 58-3	
Phil Steele		Maryland by 55	<b>Maryland 58 Howard 3</b>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Mississippi By 33.5	First meeting. Ole Miss last lost to an FCS foe in '10. The Rebels have won their last 9 vs FCS foes by 30 ppg. AP has covered 7 of their last 9 games ATS against FBS foes and lost at Pitt (55-0, +29) and Cincy (55-20, +38'). The Governors were off a trip to the FCS quarterfinals in '19 but went 4-5 LY, and their season was split between fall and spring. Their fall record was 0-3 but in the spring vs OVC foes AP went 4-2 including beating ranked foes in B2B weeks to end the ssn. The HC for AP is Scotty Walden, who was the interim HC at S.Miss in the fall of '20 & is the youngest FBS/FCS HC at just 31. Draylen Ellis took over at QB in the spring and for the season he threw for 1,270 yds (52%, 14-4) but only ran for 84 yds. Coming into this season Ellis was named preseason OVC offensive POY! Brian Snead led the team in rushing (522, 5.5, 4 td) & returns this ssn. AP's leading WR from last season was Deangel Wilson (619, 14.1, 3 td, OVC offensive POY!) and he departs but the #2, #3, and #4 WR all return. The OL brings back 3 All-OVC players & they add a BG transfer (4 sts LY). The defense in '19 only allowed 308 ypg and 21 ppg. The DLine is hit the hardest as they lose 4 of their top 6 tacklers but add PS#88 Penn St transfer Damion Barber. Overall 5 st'rs on defense are gone. The Governors D will be led by LB Jack McDonald (8 st, 70 tkl, 9 tfl, 3 pbu, 1st Tm OVC) and NB Kordell Jackson (8 st, 54 tkl, 9.5 tfl, 5 pbu, 1st Tm OVC) & should still be a solid unit. AP should be in contention to win the OVC. Ole Miss demolished Louisville on Monday night 43-24 without HC Kiffin but he should return here. Austin Peay beat Chattanooga 30-20 with a solid 452-228 yard edge, are 7-2 vs FBS teams and catch Ole Miss on a short week after playing on Monday night. I also like the Over in this one.
Las Vegas Total		60.5 Points	
+ /- Ratings		Mississippi By 25.0	
Game Grade		Mississippi By 17.6	
Computer Yards		Mississippi 775-130	
Computer Points		Mississippi 52-16	
Phil Steele		Mississippi by 31	
Mississippi 52 Austin Peay 21			

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Indiana By 28.5	First meeting. Indiana has won its last 10 vs an FCS opp (6-4 ATS) winning by an avg of 27 ppg (won comb 79-0 in L/2). Idaho was an FBS (I-A) team from '96-'17 (Big West, WAC, Independent) and I had two full pages on them in the magazine every year. Since going down to the FCS they are 0-4 SU vs FBS team and 1-3 ATS losing by 49 ppg. Indiana was ranked in the preseason for the first time in a long time but were crushed by Iowa. Iowa got 56 yd TD run Goodson 4th game then 30 yd IR TD 3 plays laste Indy 49/9 FG Iowa 2 punts then 48/8 YF 21-3 then 55 yd IR TD 28-3 only 191-145 yd H. 7 of 10 poss 2H punts each team one FG. Iowa 34-6, 18-11 FD. Idaho was 4-7 in 2019 and opened strong in the spring with a win over Eastern Washington but then lost 9 starters to injury (not all OFY) and went 1-5 in their last 5 games with the largest loss by 10 points. They opened with a solid win over Simon Fraser 68-0 last week with a 593-90 yard edge. Indiana is off a loss and needs a feel good game and some confidence before playing Cincinnati and the number is a little light at only 28.5.
Las Vegas Total		51.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Indiana By 38.5	
Game Grade		Indiana By 26.3	
Computer Yards		Indiana 692--43	
Computer Points		Indiana 45-3	
Phil Steele		Indiana by 35	Indiana 45 Idaho 10

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Lsu By 34.5	<p>In 2015 this game was cancelled after just 11 minutes of play (weather). LSU is just 2-8 ATS against FCS foes dating back to 2010. McNeese has FBS wins over USF in 2013 &amp; Mid Tenn in 2012. However McNeese has failed to cover the L/3 gms vs FBS foes. The Cowboys are coached by former LSU Asst &amp; UTSA HC Frank Wilson and their QB is the Cody Orgeron, the son of LSU's HC Ed Orgeron. McNeese could not even practice in the fall as they were hit by two Hurricanes and then a freak ice storm took place in Feb. In a crazy spring season the Cowboys went 3-4 under 1st yr HC Wilson. Last year McNeese had to replace 3 of their top 4 WR's and top 2 RB's (704, 4.7, 533, 4.2). They improved to 401 ypg but just 26 ppg. QB Orgeron threw for 1622 yards (61%, 10-3) and led the team in rushing (257, 2.9). Their top 3 RB's all return and they add Tulane's leading rusher from LY in Stephon Huderson (773, 6.0)! Four of the top 5 receivers are back including Josh Matthews (458, 14.3, 2nd team preseason Southland) and LSU transfer Jamal Pettigrew (132 ,7.3). The OL did not have great size LY but have all 5 st's back. With 10 starters back on offense this unit is in great shape to have an improved year. In '19 the defense slipped to allowing 385 ypg and 26 ppg. LY McNeese had their worst defense in over 10 yrs allowing 441 ypg, 4.6 ypc rush and 55% completions along with 29 ppg. DL Isaiah Chambers (32 tkl, 7.5 sk, 6.5 tfl), DL Mason Kinsey (38 tkl, 7.5 tfl) and DB Andre Sam (52 tkl, 2 pbu, 3 int) are all 1st Tm Preseason All-Conf and DB Chris Joyce (27 tkl, 13 pbu) is 2nd Tm Preseason All-Conf. Overall, 13 of the top 16 tacklers return and they are much better prepared than they were heading into last season and should be much improved. Perhaps looking ahead to this game they were upset by West Florida in the opener 42-36. LSU is off a loss and only have Central Michigan on deck so should get a solid win but LSU is 2-8 ATS vs FCS teams and Ed Orgeron's son is the QB of McNeese so they may not want to rub it in.</p>
Las Vegas Total		59.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Lsu By 42.5	
Game Grade		Lsu By 81.4	
Computer Yards		Lsu 807-28	
Computer Points		Lsu 58-6	
Phil Steele		Lsu by 35	<b>LSU 45 McNeese St 10</b>



Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line		Florida St By 22.5	<p>These two met last year, FSU was off season opening. Jacksonville St led 14-0 after 1Q and FSU was scoreless on 4 drives under QB Rodemaker. Jordan Travis took over and led 5 straight TD drives as FSU pulled to 21-14 at half and led 34-24 after 3Q in 41-24 win. The Gamecocks went 10-2 in fall/spg, beat FIU 19-10 and made the FCS Quarter finals. Jacksonville St HC John Grass enters his 8th year amassing a 68-21 record over his first seven seasons, and led JSU to the FCS Title Game in 2015 and made the FCS playoffs 6 out of the 7 years. JSU blew out Davidson 49-14 in the first round of the FCS playoffs before losing in the next round to Delaware 20-14. Jacksonville St has actually won 4 of their last 12 meetings with the FBS including wins over Ole Miss and have covered 4 of the last 5 including 2015 when they only lost to #6 Auburn 27-20 (+47.5). Last week they opened up with UAB. Jax St QB Cooper is Clemson transfer All 5 OL are returnees. WR Philyaw Johnson is a transfer from Duke. WR Michael Pettway Wash St transfer Bill Clark and JST head coach are best friends in each others wedding. It was 0-0 after 1Q with the yards just 64-37 but UAB led 10-0 at half and rolled 31-0 with a solid 518-154 yd edge. FSU is off an emotional home game on Sunday night. FSU led 20-17 then ND went up 38-20 before McKenzie Milton rallied FSU and forced OT but they lost by a FG there. FSU may be drained and has 4 ACC games on deck. Jacksonville St is better than they showed last week and know they can play with FSU and catch the Seminoles on a short week off a draining OT loss.</p>
Las Vegas Total		52.5 Points	
+/- Ratings		Florida St By 20.3	
Game Grade		Florida St By 19.5	
Computer Yards		Florida St 711-81	
Computer Points		Florida St 44-14	
Phil Steele		Florida St by 21	<p><b>Florida St 38 Jacksonville St 17</b></p>

Category	Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line	Fresno St By 31.5	<p>3rd meeting. First met in 2010 (Fresno won 38-17) and then again in 2013 (Fresno won 41-25). Fresno is 6-2-1 ATS against FCS foes since '14 and Cal Poly has lost their last 2 gms ATS against FBS foes. The Mustangs last made the playoffs in '16. The 2nd year HC is Beau Baldwin who went 0-3 LY in Year #1 but has a track record of success. He was the HC at E.Wash from '08-'16 and made 6 trips to the playoffs incl a national title in 2010! In the spring they plummeted to just 99.7 ypg rush (2.3), while their sacks allowed doubled to 22 (25.0%!!) in 8 fewer games. With just 3 starters back on defense in the spring they finished last in the Big Sky in both Scoring (56.3 ppg) &amp; Total Defense (611). Cal Poly did open the year with a 28-17 win over San Diego but were out FD'd 27-18 and rushed for just 44 yards. Fresno blew out Connecticut 45-0 in the opener and last week led Oregon on the road 24-21 in the 4Q. They are in an Oregon/UCLA sandwich but are an underrated team and Cal Poly had losses by 49 to UC Davis and 52 to EWash in the spring.</p>
Las Vegas Total	55.5 Points	
+/- Ratings	Fresno St By 46.5	
Game Grade	Fresno St By 34.2	
Computer Yards	Fresno St 787-6	
Computer Points	Fresno St 51-6	
Phil Steele	Fresno St by 45	<p><b>Fresno St 51 Cal Poly 6</b></p>

Category		Team & Margin	Phil's Forecast:
Las Vegas Line			<p>Nevada is 16-12 all-time vs Idaho St. Last met in '17 and Nev (-30) was upset by the Bengals 30-28! The Tigers finished the 2021 spring season 2-4 and they last made the FCS playoffs in '83, losing ironically to Nevada 27-20. ISU has covered the last 4 against FBS foes. ISU HC Rob Phenicie has gone just 15-25 with only 1 winning season (6-5 in '18) which was just their 4th winning season since 2002! Wyoming transfer Tyler Vander Waal was the QB for ISU LY and he was named Big Sky Offensive Newcomer of the year and he threw for 1843 (54%, 12-10). He returns this ssn along with the top 3 RB's and top 4 WR's. With just 3 returning starters ISU put up 431 ypg and 26 ppg. The OL returns nearly intact and should be improved. This year they only lose a DL (#6 tkl'r, 1 sack) with LB's Connor Willis (#1 tkl'r) and Oshead Trujillo (#2 tkl'r) the strengths of the Bengals defense. In the opener Idaho St lost to a strong North Dakota team 35-14 but actually had a 21-17 FD edge and were only outgained 368-301. Nevada has QB Carson Strong and a great set of WR's. Nevada was forced to practice in California in August. Cal was 9-0 in reg ssn non conf games under Wilcox. Cal opened with 63/15 and 72/9 drives for TD's 14-0 with 8-0 FD after 1Q. Nev 56/9 for 44 yd FG then 68/5 with 43 yd TD pass 14-10 6:15 35 yd FG :00 14-13 H Nev 8-0 FD in 2Q! Nev open 3Q 75/7 TD 25/9 49 yd FG 22-14 and pulled the road upset 22-17. My computer has Nevada winning this 50-10 but coming off a road upset of California with another Power 5 team on deck in Kansas St, this is a sandwich spot. I still like the Nevada offense to put up plenty of points and win by more than the Vegas line.</p>
		Nevada By 27	
Las Vegas Total			
		54 Points	
+/- Ratings			
		Nevada By 44.8	
Game Grade			
		Nevada By 36.0	
Computer Yards			
		Nevada 730-93	
Computer Points			
		Nevada 50-10	
Phil Steele			
		Nevada by 35	
			<b>Nevada 48 Idaho St 13</b>