College False Favorite Play Of The Year Goes Saturday!

OPENING CONFERENCE TOURNEY PREVIEWS!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
• Picks on Every Lined Game
• Incredible Stat of the Week
• Best Bets and Key Plays
• Awesome Angle & Tremendous Trends
• NCAA and NBA Power Ratings
• NBA Day of the Week ATS Results

GET SMART  GET PLAYBOOK  GET EVERY EDGE IMAGINABLE
THIS WEEK IN BASKETBALL – FEB 28-MARCH 6, 2015

Remember: You Have A PLAYBOOK BEST BET Whenever Our Predicted Margin Of Victory Is 7 Or More Points In Favor Of Your Line

DAILY 2-MINUTE HANDICAP TRENDS
(all trends ATS unless noted otherwise – *contingent on result)

A: Away • Con: Conference • D: Dog • F: Favorite
H: Home • Rev: Revenge • R: Road • SU: Straight-Up

Saturday, February 28

Georgetown
4-1 L5 aft DePaul… 1-4 1st BB A

ST. JOHN’S
SERIES: 1-4 L5… 0-4 H bef BB A… 0-3 aft Xavier

Texas
3-11 bef Baylor… 4-11 in 2nd BB A

KANSAS
14-2 H aft Kansas St… 1-3 H vs < .650 opp

N Carolina
1-7 w/ 3+ rest off SU fav loss w/rev

MIAMI FLA
SERIES: 4-0 L4… 6-2 H bef BB A… 9-3 vs Conf bef Pitt

W Virginia
7-2 L9 off BB SU wins… 0-4 aft Texas… 1-4 bef Kansas

BAYLOR
SERIES: 4-1 L5… 3-1 L4 aft ISU… 8-20 H vs .780 > opp

Tulsa
4-1 RD’s aft Tulane… 4-1 A btwn 2 H off BB SU wins

MEMPHIS
SERIES: 1-4 vs Tulsa off DD SU win… 5-1 L6 aft Smu

Sunday, March 1

Smu
0-4 A vs < .600 opp… 1-4 A aft Memphis vs opp off SU W

UCONN
SERIES: 0-3 L3… 1-3 L4 1st BB H… 2-7 L9 vs Conf

Arizona St
6-1 L7 aft Utah… 16-5 RD’s vs < .500 opp

COLORADO
SERIES: 1-3 L4… 0-6 aft Arizona… 1-5 L6 Games

Monday, March 2

Boston Coll
SERIES: 9-0 L9… 5-1 A aft NC State… 7-2 A btwn 2 H

VA TECH
1-4 H vs < .400 opp… 3-8 in 1st BB H vs Conf

Tuesday, March 3

Iowa
3-1 L4 aft Penn St… 7-2 RD’s at Indiana… 0-5 L5 w/ rev

INDIANA
SERIES: 2-7 L9… 4-1 in 1st BB H… 3-7 aft N’Western

Wednesday, March 4

Tennessee
11-0 dogs bef S Carolina… 6-1 dogs in 2nd BB A

LSU
SERIES: 1-4 L5… 19-5 w/ 3+ rest bef Arkansas

INcredible Stat Of The Week
The Iowa State Cyclones are 25-5-1 ATS in SU wins as a favorite when seeking revenge, including 14-0 ATS when favored by less than 6 points.

Be sure to read the INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK each week in the PLAYBOOK Basketball Newsletter!

AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK
Play On the Utah Jazz at home with a losing record versus a .428 or greater unrested non-conference opponent.

Play On: UTAH JAZZ (Saturday, 2/28)

EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

ATS W-L Record Since 1990:
10-1 (89%)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, February 28

NC State over BOSTON COLLEGE by 3

VA COMMONWEALTH over Dayton by 4

CLEMSON over Georgia Tech by 5

GEORGIA over Missouri by 14

DUKE over Syracuse by 14

Georgetown over ST. JOHN’S by 1

AKRON over Ohio U by 20

Owners of a solid 17-7 SU overall record (8-3 ATS in the MAC) heading into Valentine’s weekend, the Zips have received no love from conference opponents since then, losing four straight games – all by just 5 points or less. But in the six contests before that, Akron won five, with the only loss coming at the hands of Ohio U.

Yes, the Zips mounted a furious comeback in the final minute with three big bombs from downtown but ultimately fell short, 83-82. With revenge on the table, we note the Bobcats’ freeble 4-8 ATS mark versus foes seeking same-season loss revenge, including 1-5 ATS versus a winning foe. Akron also has a 6-2 ATS record at home versus conference foes this season, but the Zips are coming off back-to-back MAC home losses in this their Last Home Game of the campaign. On the other side, keep in mind that the Bobcats have gone just 2-7 SU in their last nine games, with six of those losses by double-digits. Translation? They are just not very good. Finally, this is a perfect bounce-back spot for the Zips, who are 7-3 ATS home off a previous home loss, including 4-0 ATS with revenge. Again.

MARYLAND over Michigan by 7

CENTRAL FLORIDA over East Carolina by 3

Louisville over FLORIDA ST by 3

FLORIDA over Tennessee by 4

Rhode Island over LA SALLE by 2

KANSAS over Texas by 6

North Carolina over MIAMI FLA by 4

XAVIER over Villanova by 3

LSU over Mississippi by 6

WICHITA ST over Northern Iowa by 13

If you enjoy college basketball just a bit out of the spotlight, you should be very excited because this mid-major matchup just might be the Game of the Year to watch. Both teams have identical 16-1 records in conference play and if you take away the Panthers’ big 16-point win over Wichita State in late January, both teams would be coming in at 27-2 overall. In fact, NIU cracked the Top 10 this week – the highest ranking in school history – and the Panthers haven’t lost since Jan 1st, while the Shockers are the 11th-ranked team in the nation. In this battle for the top spot in the MVC standings and No. 1 seed in the upcoming conference tourney, the Shockers will try to extend their 31-game home winning streak (4th longest active skiem in the nation). But more importantly, WSU will attempt to quench a serious thirst for payback from that January 31st embarrassment in Cedar Rapids. The Shockers have done it before: they are 3-1 ATS at home in this series with same-season loss revenge, so it will be no shock here if Wichie gets its revenge before: they are 31st embarrassment in Cedar Rapids. The Shockers have done it before: they are 3-1 ATS at home in this series with same-season loss revenge, so it will be no shock here if Wichie gets its revenge.
Once referred to as Wisconsin-Green Bay, the basketball program now prefers to be called simply Green Bay (you know, 'you can call me Ray, or you can call me Bay...'). The Bay beat Oakland twice last season, but dropped a close decision earlier this year on the road. Oakland struggled in the early part of the season with a sluggish 5-12 start, but that's been completely flipped around by the Golden Flashes. Currently tied with Bowling Green for the Bulls here is their arrival off a double-revenge affair with Akron (4-10 SU and 5-7 ATS after Zips – plus they also have a same-season revenge match with Ohio U on deck (2-6 SUATS away before Bobcats). Meanwhile, the Golden Flashes are 5-2 SUATS with revenge in this series, and 11-3-1 ATS with same-season revenge. This is now a critical game for Kent State as they try to remain atop the standings of the MAC conference. Currently tied with Bowling Green after losing to Miami Ohio Tuesday night, the Flashes are now just a game ahead of Buffalo. They have three difficult contests before Bobcats). Meanwhile, the Golden Flashes are 5-2 SUATS with revenge in this series, and 11-3-1 ATS with same-season revenge from a loss of 16 or more points, including 5-0-1 ATS at home. We strongly suggest you back the Flashes in this deluxe made-to-order revenge payback sandwich.

3★ BEST BET

KANSAS ST over Iowa St by 6

While junior Georges Niang is the only member of last year's 'Big 3' remaining after DeAndre Kane and Melvin Ejim moved on from that superb 28-win team, Fred Hoiberg was able to come up with some suitable replacements. This year's attack is much more balanced with six players averaging double-figures in scoring. However, the Mayor finds his team in a nasty sandwich game here that even Jared the Subway Guy would find unappealing: the Cyclones are coming off a same-season revenger with Baylor and have another one with Oklahoma up next. Plus, Iowa State is 0-3 SUATS away after the Bears and 1-6 SU and 2-5 ATS away before the Sooners. Meanwhile, Kansas State is 14-5 ATS and 12-6-1 ATS at home (B-2-1 ATS with revenge), and 5-1 SUATS with revenge in Last Home Games. The Wildcats had a huge week with their monster win over cross-state rival Kansas, and while the K-State fans responded like maniacs by storming the court and nearly trampling Jayhawks HC Bill Self, the bottom line is that if KSU security isn't prepared, it may happen again here. If you don't believe it, then check out The Clincher: Kansas State is 4-1 SU and 5-0 ATS at home with revenge in games after facing Kansas.
Sunday, March 1

Wisconsin over Michigan St by 14

Tough loss on Tuesday for the 5th-ranked Badgers in College Park, but not the huge upset that some of the talking heads tried to make it out to be (after all, the Terps are 23-5 and ranked #14). Now Wisconsin is back home to take on the Spartans, who last beat them in the semifinals of last season’s Big Ten tourney. Michigan State is 1-6 ATS in games before Last Home Games, which ties in nicely with 4-12 ATS mark in games before playing the Boilermakers, including 0-5 ATS versus .777 or greater opposition. Also of note is Sparty’s 16-3 SU and 11-8 ATS mark versus sub .800 opponents this season, but only 2-5 ATS and 3-4 ATS versus foes with a higher win percentage. Wisky, meanwhile, is riding a 12-game SU home conference winning streak, and has most of the good numbers in their corner. Not only are the Badgers 17-1 SU and 10-7-1 ATS this season (3-0 SUATS as chalk of 10 or less points), they’re also 5-0 SU and 4-1 ATS with LTKO revenge versus .725 or less opponents.

Wake Forest over Pittsburgh by 4
Stanford over Oregon by 1
Colorado over Arizona St by 2
UCLA over Washington St by 19

Monday, March 2

Virginia over Syracuse by 3
Texas over Baylor by 6
Virginia Tech over Boston College by 4

4★ BEST BET

Iowa St over Oklahoma by 16

The Sooners have long been on the short end of the stick in this series, going 14-24 ATS, including 0-4 SUATS from Game 29 out. They are also just 1-4 ATS on the road versus greater than .700 opponents this season, and they have a season-ending home revenge game with Kansas on deck (4-12 ATS before the Jayhawks). On the flip side, the Cyclones are 52-2 SU in their last 54 games at Hilton Coliseum (both losses to Kansas), including 21 straight victories, and are looking to avenge an 11-point loss at Norman earlier this season. All of this ties nicely into our INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK on page 3, but if that’s not enough for you, there is always The Clincher: The Cyclones are 13-2-1 ATS in Last Home Games, including 11-0-1 ATS when seeking revenge from a .500 or greater opponent.

Tuesday, March 3

Maryland over Rutgers by 9
North Carolina over Georgia Tech by 6
Dayton over Rhode Island by 1
Butler over Georgetown by 2
Indiana over Iowa by 1
Eastern Michigan over Ball St by 7
Buffalo over Ohio by 20

Wednesday, March 4

Ohio St over Penn St by 4
Louisville over Notre Dame by 6
Providence over Seton Hall by 2
South Florida over Central Florida by 1
St. Joseph’s over La Salle by 6
Fordham over Duquesne by 4
George Washington over George Mason by 5
Lsu over Tennessee by 9
Richmond over Massachusetts by 1

Saint Louis over St. Bonaventure by 6

No question that this is a down year for the Billikens (3-12 SU since Christmas), but they’ve had this game circled on their schedule ever since being KO’d in the opening round of last year’s Atlantic 10 tourney as the No. 1 seed. They also own a salty 20-6 ATS mark as a conference home pick or underdog, including 11-1 ATS with 3 or more days of rest. Should we keep going? Okay, Saint Louis is 3-0 ATS in home games when coming off a conference matchup this season and 4-0 ATS as dogs in Last Home Games versus less than .790 opponents. Meanwhile, the numbers on the Bonnies’ side are appropriately dismal: 1-3-1 ATS in the role of conference chalk this season, 1-7 ATS on the road after Duquesne, and 1-7 ATS as favorites in games before taking on Fordham. Hence, we say take the points if you can get ’em.

Miami Ohio over Akron by 1
Central Michigan over Toledo by 2
Kent St over Bowling Green by 3
Alabama over Mississippi by 1
Northern Illinois over Western Michigan by 1
Missouri over Michigan by 3
Kentucky over Auburn by 6
Kansas over West Virginia by 14

5★ BEST BET

The improving Pack are now 10-3-2 ATS in conference games this season at press time following NCSU’s statement-making win over North Carolina at the Dean Dome on Tuesday, including 5-1 ATS when seeking revenge (lost 68-57 as 8-point home chalk to the Tigers last month). NC State, who had lost to the Tar Heels in 17 of the last 18 meetings between the Tobacco Road schools, held UNC to its lowest point total in the Smith Center in a nearly three-decade run in Chapel Hill. It was also the first win over a Roy Williams-coached Tar Heels team on the road for the Wolfpack ever. Meanwhile, Clemson is struggling, losing four of their last five games, and the Tigers are coming off a Georgia Tech revenge (3-11 SU and 2-12 ATS after the Yellow Jackets) with a Notre Dame revenge affair on deck (0-2 SUATS before the Irish). Also, Last Home Games for the Tigers have not worked in their favor as Clemson is just 4-8 ATS, including 0-3 ATS in the last three. In addition, some solid before-and-afters are at work here: 6-0 SU and 5-1 ATS after BC, and 4-1 ATS before Syracuse. But to put the final wraps on it, we’ll call on The Clincher: The Wolfpack are 16-4 ATS as underdogs with conference revenge under Mark Gottfried, including 11-0 ATS in the last eleven.

Florida over Texas A&M by 5
Villanova over Creighton by 10

Horizon League Tournament Begins (page 6)
The Golden Gophers have covered the number in 9 of the last 13 meetings in this series, and overall have rung the register five times in the last seven meetings. They are 4-0 ATS in the last four meetings. Minnesota is 1-3 ATS in its last four outings, hitting the under three times. The Golden Gophers have covered the number in nine of their last 13 road games. Minnesota is 1-5 ATS in the last six meetings at State Farm Center. The Gophers have covered the number in 9 of the last 13 meetings in this series, and overall have rung the register five times in the last seven meetings. They are 4-0 ATS in the last four meetings. Minnesota is 1-3 ATS in its last four outings, hitting the under three times. The Golden Gophers have covered the number in nine of their last 13 road games. Minnesota is 1-5 ATS in the last six meetings at State Farm Center. The Gophers have covered the number in 9 of the last 13 meetings in this series, and overall have rung the register five times in the last seven meetings. They are 4-0 ATS in the last four meetings. Minnesota is 1-3 ATS in its last four outings, hitting the under three times. The Golden Gophers have covered the number in nine of their last 13 road games. Minnesota is 1-5 ATS in the last six meetings at State Farm Center.
HORIZON LEAGUE

TECH NOTES: Home teams are 39-30-3 ATS all-time in tournament but only 2-5 ATS as dogs… favorites are 7-3 ATS off SU favorite loss… dogs with revenge are 5-18 ATS vs opp off SUATS win… teams off BB SU wins are 7-1 ATS vs opp off BB SU losses… #1 seeds are 8-3 ATS off DD SU win, 3-7 ATS L10 games… #2 seeds are 14-4 ATS L18 games overall, but 0-6 off DD SU win and 1-5 ATS as dogs… #3 seeds are 14-4 ATS off BB SU wins… #5 seeds are 7-0 ATS off SU dog win, 4-0 ATS as DD favorite, 8-1 vs opp off SU loss and 6-1 vs revenge… #6 seeds are 0-6 ATS dogs.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: For the fifth straight year the Horizon will use league home courts exclusively to decide this year’s entrant into the Big Dance. That’s good news for top-seed Valparaiso, who last only one game at the Athletics-Recreation Center this season. With 4 starters back from last year’s 18-win unit, the Crusaders sport a 4-0 SU mark in tourney openers but are just 1-5-1 ATS as chalk in this event. The best defensive team in the loop, Valparo ranks No. 14 in rebound margin and No. 16 in defensive field goal percentage in the nation… Oakland utilized a murderous non-conference schedule to its advantage by dominating foes in League play this season, entering this fray on an 11-2 SU and 10-2 ATS run at press time. The Golden Grizzlies are only in their 2nd year in the League but must be considered dangerous… Like last year, Cleveland State started slow but closed with a rush. Led by Trey Lewis, arguably the best player in the conference, don’t overlook the Vikings’ 7-1 ATS mark in underdog roles this season. A cautionary note, though: CSU has gone one-and-out each of the last three years in this event… Despite winning 13 of 15 home games last season, Green Bay laid a huge egg in its tourney opener as the No. 1 seed last season and figures to come back with vengeance. Just 8-15 SU and 9-14 ATS overall in this tourney, the Phoenix are 4-0 SUATS versus No. 8 or lower seeds.

THE SLEEPER: Milwaukee

21-win Panthers returned 3 starters from last year’s squad but struggled out of the gate, going 5-12 before finally hitting their stride. Milwaukee ran the table en route to capturing the title last season – winning and covering all four games in this event. The Panthers also bring a sparkling 15-8 SUATS tourney mark into this year’s scrum.

KEY TOURNAMENT BEST BET: PLAY ON VALPARAISO

As outlined above, the Crusaders have the key ingredient (defense) to make it to the title game this season. Remember, this tournament is a staggering 23-0 SU and 17-5-1 ATS in its opening game. Get on the No. 1 seed in this tourney now before the going gets tough. Enough said.

Missouri Valley Conference

TECH NOTES: Higher-seeded favorites are 81-10 SU & 57-32-2 ATS in first round games (No Donkey games)… teams off BB SU losses are 1-7 ATS w/ revenge vs opp off BB SU wins… DD dogs are 4-11 ATS off SU loss, 10-2 ATS vs opp off SU dog win, 5-1 ATS favs vs opp higher 1-5 ATS off DD SU win… Wright State’s 3-0 ATS off SU fav loss, 8-1 ATS home vs opp off SU fav 2-0 points, 11-3 ATS as #4 seed, 1-5 ATS away, 1-5 ATS w/revenge… Youngstown St: 0-7 ATS dogs vs 10 points, 0-5 ATS off SU loss, 0-4 ATS vs #3 seed, 1-5 vs opp off SU win, 1-4 ATS w/revenge.

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Wichita State is the reigning king of the Valley and Greg Marshall’s troops put on a clinching performance last season, taking a perfect 35-0 record into the Final Four before tasting defeat for the first time. And while there was a serious lack of competition in the MVC last season, the Shockers certainly earned their stripes. They will, however, carry a gigantic bulls-eye on their back this go-round but you can’t dismiss a 35-0 SU mark in conference games at press time the past two seasons. Still, it should be noted that, until last season, the last time Wichita had won this tournament was back in 1987…Northern Iowa more than lived up to its billing when the 5-returning starter Panthers battled Wichita State down to the final game for conference honors. An offensive powerhouse, UNI ranked No. 13 in offensive field goal percentage and No. 16 in 3-point accuracy in the nation this season. And they also lost only one game against the spread away from home this season at press time. Color them super-dangerous in the tournament schedule to its expectations (picked to finish 4th in the loop) and will be looking to earn its 20th win of the campaign in this tourney. The Aces will need to be all-in if they wish to reverse past failures (10-20-1 ATS, including 2-13-1 ATS versus No. 4 or higher seeds) in this tournament. Illinois State dominated .750 or weaker opposition this season, winning 17 of 22 games, but faltered against better foes, going just 1-6. The Redbirds have gone 4-2 in this tourney the past three seasons.

THE SLEEPER: Indiana State

The Sycamores more than held their own against sub .700 opposition this season, sporting a 12-6 SU and 10-7 ATS mark, including 4-1 ATS as a dog. Watch and see whether head coach Greg Lansing’s 7-2 SUATS mark in games when seeking revenge from a same-season loss of more than 10 points comes into play should they hook Wichita State.

KEY TOURNAMENT BEST BET: PLAY ON THE NO. 1 SEED IN GAME ONE

The simple fact is numbers don’t lie. Not when the top seed in the Horizon is a staggering 23-0 SU and 17-5-1 ATS in its opening game. Get on the Shockers now before the going gets tough. Enough said.
THE WAY WE SEE IT: After playing the CAA tournament at the Richmond Coliseum annually since 1996, the venue changed to the Baltimore Arena last year, showing marked improvement in attendance. WILLIAM & MARY, an experienced senior-laden squad, finished runner-up in the event last season, dropping a 1-point decision in the title game to Delaware. The sharp-shooting Tribe (No. 6 offensive field goal percentage and No. 13 offensive 3-point accuracy team in the land) have never qualified for an NCAA tournament and surely stand their best chance to in the event, though… Always in the hunt. JAMES MADISON is back and hitting on all cylinders at the right time. A strong 7-4 SU and 9-2 ATS mark in games away from home this season, as well as a stout 8-4 ATS mark with revenge in this tourney, figures to serve them well.

THE SLEEPER: HOFSTRA

Although the Pride is playing its poorest ball of the season at the moment, this is a squad that won 12 of its first 15 games to begin the season and will take the court here with plenty of revenge incentive. In addition, they are 4-1 SUATS in this tourney in games against foes they defeated most recently. A win or two would not surprise.

KEY TOURNAMENT BEST BET: PLAY ON WILLIAM & MARY OVER DELAWARE

Enough is enough, as both the Pointer Sisters and Bill & Mary would say. After failing to the Hens in the title game of this tourney last season, The Tribe took it on the chin two more times against Delaware this campaign. Rest assured, they will be out for blood!

THE WAY WE SEE IT: Mighty GONZAGA has cut down the nets 11 of the last 14 years in this tourney while winning the title game all fourteen times. The Zags' 30-4 SU record all-time in this tourney speaks volumes and they're once again the team to beat as they continue their surge to earn a top seed in the upcoming NCAA Tournament. Aside from being the most accurate shooting team in the nation, the Zags also rank in the Top 20 in 3-point shooting, defensive field percentage and rebounding. One note of caution, though: the Bulldogs are just 4-8 ATS as favorites of 12 or more points in this tourney, including the last three.

THE SLEEPER: SAN FRANCISCO

WASHINGTON is the most overrated team in this season, setting up an inspired revenge scenario. Guard Kevin Pangos has played his bestball of the season, dominating weaker opponents away from Provo. That's because BYU is 0-7 ATS in its last seven conference tourney contests at the moment, this is a squad that won 12 of its first 15 games this season. Now that's a San Francisco treat.

KEY TOURNAMENT BEST BET: PLAY ON LOYOLA, PACIFIC, TOWSON, SAINT MARY'S AND SANTA CLARA VERSUS BYU

The Lions, Tigers, Dons and Broncos each fell twice to the Cougars this season, setting up an inspired revenge scenario. BYU is 0-7 ATS in its last seven conference tourney contests against foes seeking same-season double revenge-exact. Once again, we're betting the Tabernacle Choir is not capable of pulling the hat trick against any of these entries in this tournament.

EXTRA TOURNAMENT TRENDS & NOTES – GONZAGA: 4-0 ATS off SU ATS loss, 11-1 ATS as favorites 5 > points. PEPPERDINE: 4-12 ATS off SU or ATS loss, 2-7 ATS as #5 seed or lower, 2-7 ATS as BB ATS dogs vs #1-2 seeds.
LOUISIANA TECH over Southern Miss by 21
OLD DOMINION over Marshall by 16
Georgia St over LA-MONROE by 3
LA-LAFAYETTE over Ark-Little Rock by 10
ARKANSAS ST over South Alabama by 4
UTEP over North Texas by 13
ARIZONA over California by 24
CONNECTICUT over Memphis by 4
DAVIDSON over Va Commonwealth by 4
WASHINGTON over Colorado by 1
UC DAVIS over UC Riverside by 10
LONG BEACH ST over CS Northridge by 10
UC IRVINE over CS Fullerton by 15
ARIZONA ST over Stanford by 4
Utah over WASHINGTON ST by 13

Missouri Valley Tournament Begins (page 6)

Friday, March 6
Miami Ohio over OHIO by 2
DARTMOUTH over Brown by 8
EASTERN MICHIGAN over Toledo by 5
BUFFALO over Bowling Green by 11

KENT ST over Akron by 10
The Zips defeated the Flashies, 61-52, on February 10th when they broke open a tight game. With the score tied at 37 and 13:35 to play, Akron embarked on a 21-4 run to take a 17-point lead and put the game away. The Zips shot 40 percent in that contest, compared to 35.4 percent for Kent State. That's important given the fact that they also have posted an impressive spread record of 14-7-2 in Last ATS at home, including 13-2 ATS as favorite of 8 or less points. They also have posted an impressive spread record of 14-7-2 in Last Home Games. At the same time, Akron is just 3-8 SU and 2-8-1 ATS have gone 20-9 SU and 17-11-1 ATS in this series, including 11-3 SU and 10-3-1 ATS here (4-0 SUATS L4). The before-and-after looks pretty good for Blake Griffin's crew, too, as L.A. arrives off a road game at Memphis (15-8 ATS away after the Grizzlies) with a trip to Minnesota up next (7-1 SUATS before facing the Timberwolves). Chicago would have their hands full with these Clippers even if Rose could play. Los Angeles has excelled in bringing down the Bulls: the Clips have gone 12-0 SUATS over Chicago by 8

BALL ST over Northern Illinois by 3
WESTERN MICHIGAN over Central Michigan by 6
Columbia over PENN by 5
PRINCETON over Cornell by 10
HARVARD over Yale by 3
BAYLOR over Texas Tech by 19

Colonial Athletic Tournament Begins (page 7)
West Coast Tournament Begins (page 7)

NBA BASKETBALL
Saturday, February 28
WASHINGTON over Detroit by 4
Toronto over NEW YORK by 7
Atlanta over MIAMI by 1
Memphis over MINNESOTA by 10
DALLAS over Brooklyn by 6

4★ BEST BET

UTHA over Milwaukee by 11

Wow. Fresh from the All-Star break, the Jazz opened up their second season looking like John Stockton was still dishing out assists and The Mailman was still making deliveries at the rim. They got things going with a 92-76 win over Portland and followed up with a 90-81 shocker over San Antonio for back-to-back home dog victories. If you’ve followed us for any length of time, you know one of our favorite angles – ‘The Air Up There’ – involves Utah hosting unrested opponents, and the results have been consistently rewarding. The Bucks, who have closed the gap on Central Division leaders Cleveland and Chicago, unfortunately invaded Salt Lake City after playing the Lakers the night before. Milwaukee has gone 0-4 SUATS of late after playing the Lakers and a follow-up contest at Denver after this one offers no ATS encouragement either (Bucks 1-5 ATS away before playing the Nuggets). Worst of all, however, is the visitor’s complete failure to be competitive against non-division foes on Saturdays: 9-22 SUATS on Saturdays versus non-division foes, including 0-10 SUATS versus a foe off a SU loss (check Jazz result Friday night at Denver). Utah has had its way with the Brew City Boys in recent meetings, posting a solid 17-6 SU and 19-4 ATS record, including 13-2 SUATS at EnergySolutions Arena. The hosts are also a respectable 12-6 ATS versus sub .740 foes off a SU win this season (check Bucks-Lakers result) and as we pointed out, they’re positively lethal when entertaining unrested opponents in the thin mountain air. That being said, we’ll close things out with The Clincher: See this week’s AWESOME ANGLE on page 2.

PHOENIX over San Antonio by 4

Sunday, March 1

LA Clippers over CHICAGO by 8

Chicago fans got their first look at the team without injured Derrick Rose on Wednesday in a home game against the Hornets – and it wasn’t a pretty sight. Charlotte broke open a close contest in the final quarter, racing to an 85-74 lead midway through the period, then putting the game away with an 8-0 run that boosted the margin to 17 points with 2:25 remaining. The loss as 7-point home chalk dropped the Bulls into a 1-2-3 season that was crushed by Cleveland for the Central Division lead at press time, and with Rose slated to undergo surgery for a torn meniscus in his right knee, the NBA’s 2011 MVP may not make it back this season. In truth, Chicago would have their hands full with these Clippers even if Rose could play. Los Angeles has excelled in bringing down the Bulls: the Clips have gone 9-9 SU and 6-11-1 ATS in this series, including 11-3 SU and 10-3-1 ATS here (4-0 SUATS L4). The before-and-after looks pretty good for Blake Griffin’s crew, too, as L.A. arrives off a road game at Memphis (15-8 ATS away after the Grizzlies) with a trip to Minnesota up next (7-1 SUATS before facing the Timberwolves). Chicago did manage one of their best efforts in awhile against the Clips in Los Angeles back in mid-November, winning 105-89. But with the Bulls standing just 9-16 ATS as home favorites this season and emotionally crippled by the loss of their star point guard, we’ll look for L.A. to hold serve again in this one-sided series.

Oklahoma City over LA LAKERS by 3
Charlotte over ORLANDO by 1
Golden State over BOSTON by 6
INDIANA over Philadelphia by 7
Portland over SACRAMENTO by 3
HOUSTON over Cleveland by 1
New Orleans over DENVER by 1

Marc Lawrence’s award-winning basketball selections are available all season long at: VegasINSIDER.com
THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS

WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015

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<td>IOWA STATE (Monday 3/2)</td>
<td>NC STATE (Tuesday 3/3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNS (Monday 3/2)</td>
<td>JAZZ (Saturday 2/28)</td>
<td>CAVALIERS (Friday 3/6)</td>
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NBA TOTALS

Timberwolves OVER (Monday 3/2)
Kings UNDER (Sunday 3/1)
Thunder UNDER (Wednesday 3/4)

Monday, March 2

Toronto over PHILADELPHIA by 4

3★ BEST BET

Phoenix over MIAMI by 7

Both teams scrapping hard for a playoff spot but the loss of star C Chris Bosh for the season will likely prove to be Miami’s undoing. Yes, they did post back-to-back wins after learning that Bosh would not return but those victories came against Philadelphia and Orlando, teams with a combined 31 wins between them. But prior to tonight’s game with the Suns, Miami will be coming off contests with two much tougher opponents, New Orleans and Atlanta. The Heat have also wilted in games following the Hawks, going just 1-9 ATS, including 0-4 ATS at home. And while Phoenix must face a pair of tough foes at home before flying to South Beach (Oklahoma City and San Antonio), the Suns will be packing a strong 15-8 SU and 14-7-2 ATS edge in this series from game 32 out. Then there’s the matter of Miami’s 103-97 road win over Phoenix back on 12/19, notable because of the Suns’ blistering 5-0 SUATS mark in their last five contests when playing with same-season non-conference revenge. Ultimately, it’s our well-oiled machine that provides The Clincher: Miami is 2-11 SU and 1-12 ATS in its last 13 non-conference home games, including 0-7 SUATS the last seven.

Golden State over BROOKLYN by 7
LA Clippers over MINNESOTA by 2
DALLAS over New Orleans by 7

Tuesday, March 3

CHARLOTTE over LA Lakers by 8
CLEVELAND over Boston by 6
ATLANTA over Houston by 6

MEMPHIS over Utah by 3

Coming right back with the Jazz – on the road, no less – as we feel Utah can make a second-season run at the crowded Western Conference playoff picture. Though the Grizzlies still own the 2nd-best record in the West, they are not immune to defeat – as shown by Wednesday’s 102-90 setback to sorry Sacramento. Memphis did silence the Jazz at Utah a month ago, 100-90, but that just adds fuel to the fire as the visitors are currently on an 8-4 ATS run in this series when looking to get even for a previous loss. Even better, though, is Utah’s moneymaking 7-1-1 ATS mark this year when taking to the road with same-season revenge. The Grizz show up off a same-season reveenger of their own against Kevin Garnett and the Timberwolves, and they’ve posted a weak 6-12 ATS record after battling Minnesota. And despite a gaudy 41-15 SU record, Memphis is no great shakes laying points at home, managing just a 12-10-1 ATS effort. All things considered, we’ll look for the improving Jazz to catch the Grizzlies napping here tonight.

CHICAGO over Washington by 4
DENVER over Milwaukee by 1

Wednesday, March 4

INDIANA over New York by 8
Phoenix over ORLANDO by 6
BOSTON over Utah by 4
TORONTO over Cleveland by 2
BROOKLYN over Charlotte by 1
DENVER over MINNESOTA by 3
HOUSTON over Memphis by 1
MIAMI over LA Lakers by 6
OKLAHOMA CITY over Philadelphia by 14
NEW ORLEANS over Detroit by 6
SAN ANTONIO over Sacramento by 8
LA CLIPPERS over Portland by 3
GOLDEN STATE over Milwaukee by 10

Thursday, March 5

Oklahoma City over CHICAGO by 1
PORTLAND over Dallas by 8

Friday, March 6

Toronto over CHARLOTTE by 6
Chicago over INDIANA by 1
ORLANDO over Sacramento by 2
PHILADELPHIA over Utah by 1
Phoenix over BROOKLYN by 3

5★ BEST BET

If you think the addition of 7-foot C Tomofey Mozgov hasn’t solidified this Cleveland team, then think again. After starting the season 19-20 SU and 13-26 ATS amid high expectations, the Cavs caught fire and are now on an 18-2 SU and 15-5 ATS run at press time since mid-January. Revenge looms large in this matchup as King James and company will be looking to make amends for a pair of losses suffered to the Hawks in their last two meetings this season. And while Atlanta seemingly has a lock on the No. 1 seed in the East, the feeling here is it’s time for the high-flying Hawks to come back to the pack. Tonight provides the perfect setting as The Clincher: Cleveland is 15-3 ATS in SU victories over Atlanta when they are seeking revenge.

MEMPHIS over LA Lakers by 12
HOUSTON over Detroit by 11
WASHINGTON over Miami by 6
NEW ORLEANS over Boston by 5
SAN ANTONIO over Denver by 9
GOLDEN STATE over Dallas by 8

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SAT 2/28... Detroit @ WASHINGTON – Pistons: 1-6 in 0/0 rest sit / Wiz: 4-1 O/U in 0/0 rest sit... Toronto @ NEW YORK – Raptors: 5-1 O/U as RF’s w/ no rest / Knicks: 4-0 L4 vs Tor... Atlanta @ MIAMI – Hawks: 7-1 O/U away in 0/0 rest sit / Heat: 1-5-1 in 0/0 rest sit... Memphis @ MINNESOTA – Grizz: 1-7 O/U L8 away vs Min / T’Wolves: 0-11 as HD’s in 0/0 rest sit..<br>SUN 3/1... La Clippers @ CHICAGO – Clips: 4-1 L5 vs Chi / Bulls: 0-4 O/U on Sundays... Oklahoma City @ LA LAKERS – Thunder: 6-1 O/U as RF in 1/1 rest sit / Lakers: Series host 7-0... Charlotte @ ORLANDO – Hornets: 1-5 Sundays vs div / Magic: 5-1 O/U L6 vs Char... Golden State @ BOSTON – Warriors: 1-4 O/U L5 vs Bos / Celtics: 3-13 O/U as non-conf HD’s... Philadelphia @ INDIANA – Sixers: 1-7 O/U away in 1/1 rest sit / Pacers: 1-5 as HF’s > 5 pts in 1/1 rest sit... Portland @ SACRAMENTO – 4**** Best Bet UNDER – Blazers: 0-8 O/U favs vs Pac div / 0-5 O/U away vs < .400 opp / 1-5 O/U as Sunday favs / Kings: 0-5 O/U as non-conf HD’s > 3 pts vs > 600 opp / 1-7 O/U as Sunday dogs / 1-5 O/U L6 vs Port... Cleveland @ HOUSTON – Cavs: 1-6 O/U away in 1/1 rest sit vs non-conf opp / Rockets: 1-6 on Sundays... New Orleans @ DENVER – Pelicans: 0-5-1 O/U Sunday RG / Nuggets: Series host 10-1..<br>MON 3/2... Toronto @ PHILADELPHIA – Raptors: 1-4 as RF’s vs unsettled opp / Sixers: 5-1 home w/ no rest... Phoenix @ MIAMI – Suns: 4-1 away in 1/1 rest sit / Heat: 1-4 home in 1/1 rest sit... Golden State @ BROOKLYN – Warriors: 5-0 O/U away in 0/1 rest sit / Nets: 1-5 home vs unsettled opp... La Clippers @ MINNESOTA – 3*** Best Bet OVER – Clips: 7-0 O/U as RF’s w/ no rest / 7-1 O/U away vs .250 < opp / 6-1 O/U Monday conf RG / T’Wolves: 7-0 O/U vs unsettled non-div conf opp / 4-0 O/U aft HG vs Mem / 5-1 O/U L6 vs LAC... New Orleans @ DALLAS – Pelicans: 10-1 away w/ no rest / Mavs: 0-6 vs unsettled conf opp.<br>TUE 3/3... La Lakers @ CHARLOTTE – Lakers: 1-4 O/U on Tuesdays / Hornets: 1-6 O/U L7 vs LAL... Boston @ CLEVELAND – Celtics: 5-0 O/U away in 1/1 rest sit / Cavs: 1-4 home in 1/1 rest sit vs conf opp... Houston @ ATLANTA – Rockets: 4-0 on Tuesdays / Hawks: 5-1 O/U in 2/1 rest sit... Utah @ MEMPHIS – Jazz: 4-0 O/U away vs .700 > opp / Grizz: 0-7 home vs < .400 opp... Washington @ CHICAGO – Wiz: 4-1 O/U away in 2/1 rest sit / Bulls: 1-4 Tuesday HG... Milwaukee @ DENVER – Bucks: 7-1 as favs in 2/1 rest sit / Nuggets: 0-4-1 in 1/2 rest sit vs non-conf opp.<br>WED 3/4... New York @ INDIANA – Knicks: 5-1 O/U away w/ 3 rest / Pacers: 6-0 O/U on Wednesdays... Phoenix @ ORLANDO – Suns: 6-1 away in 1/2 rest sit / Magic: 1-4 home in 2/1 rest sit vs non-conf opp... Utah @ BOSTON – Jazz: 1-5 in 0/0 rest sit / Celtics: 4-0-1 home in 0/0 rest sit... Cleveland @ TORONTO – Cavs: 1-5 O/U away w/ no rest / Raptors: 1-5 O/U on Wednesdays... Charlotte @ BROOKLYN – Hornets: 0-5 away in 0/1 rest sit / Nets: 5-0-1 O/U L6 vs Char... Denver @ MINNESOTA – Nuggets: 6-1 O/U away w/ no rest vs div / T’Wolves: 6-1 O/U L7 home vs Den... Memphis @ HOUSTON – Grizz: 1-4 away in 0/0 rest sit / Rockets: 5-1 in 0/0 rest sit... La Lakers @ MIAMI – Lakers: 1-6 O/U away w/ no rest / Heat: 2-8 home vs unsettled non-conf opp... Philadelphia @ OKLAHOMA CITY – 5**** Best Bet UNDER – Sixers: 0-7 O/U L7 as dogs 13 > pts vs > 11 O/U on Wednesdays / Thunder: 0-13 O/U L13 vs .250 < opp / 0-6 O/U in 2/1 rest sit / 1-12 O/U home w/ RG next day... Detroit @ NEW ORLEANS – Pistons: 1-4 O/U away w/ 3 rest vs non-conf opp / Pelicans: 5-0 L5 vs Det... Sacramento @ SAN ANTONIO – Kings: 1-6 w/ 2 rest / Spurs: 4-0 home w/ 3 rest vs conf opp... Portland @ LA CLIPPERS – Blazers: 1-6 O/U away in 2/1 rest sit / Clips: 1-7 O/U Wednesday HG... Milwaukee @ GOLDEN STATE – Bucks: 6-1 away w/ no rest vs non-conf opp / Warriors: 1-6 O/U home vs non-conf opp...<br>THUR 3/5... Oklahoma City @ CHICAGO – Thunder: 0-4 O/U Thursdays vs non-conf opp / Bulls: 1-7 home vs unsettled non-conf opp... Dallas @ PORTLAND – Mavs: 4-1 O/U away vs unsettled opp / Blazers: 6-0 O/U in 0/2 rest sit vs conf opp.<br>FRI 3/6... Toronto @ CHARLOTTE – Raptors: 7-3 O/U aft Clev / Hornets: 4-1 O/U Friday HG... Chicago @ INDIANA – Bulls: 10-1 w/ no rest vs div / Pacers: 4-1 O/U vs unsettled div opp... Sacramento @ ORLANDO – Kings: 2-7 Friday RG / Magic: 4-1 Friday HF’s... Utah @ PHILADELPHIA – Jazz: 7-1 in 1/1 rest sit vs non-conf opp... Sixers: 3-11 O/U in 1/1 rest sit vs non-conf opp... Phoenix @ BROOKLYN – Suns: 11-1 as non-conf RF’s / Nets: 1-4 O/U Friday HG... Cleveland @ ATLANTA – Cavs: 6-1 Fridays vs non-conf opp / Hawks: 2-8 home in 2/1 rest sit... La Lakers @ MEMPHIS – Lakers: 5-0-1 L6 vs Mem / Grizz: 2-11 O/U as favs 12 > pts... Detroit @ HOUSTON – Pistons: 5-1 Friday RG / Rockets: 4-1 O/U L5 vs Det... Miami @ WASHINGTON – Heat: 4-1 Fridays vs div / Wiz: 0-7 home w/ 2 rest... Boston @ NEW ORLEANS – Celts: 7-0 O/U away in 1/1 rest sit vs non-conf opp / Pelicans: 7-1 O/U home in 1/1 rest sit vs non-conf opp... Denver @ SAN ANTONIO – Nuggets: 0-4 O/U away in 1/1 rest sit / Spurs: 5-0 home in 1/1 rest sit... Dallas @ GOLDEN STATE – Mavs: 1-4 as RD’s w/ no rest / Warriors: 7-0 Friday HG.