

ShoresteinSays.com 2019 - NFL Week 11

"The Money Zone": Games that have a "Calculated vs. Actual" difference of between 2 and 6 points are considered The Money Zone. Since 2015, games that fall within this tier have hit ~54% on a sample of over 500 games. I consider games in this tier to have a statistical advantage in the long run. This is a completely objective calculation that does not account for injuries, roster changes, weather etc. However, I believe the smartest investment is to make small bets on each one of these games and slowly increase them over time if you are successful.

2019 Week 11					
Away	Home	Calculated Spread	Actual Spread	Calculated vs Actual	Projected Winner ATS
Pittsburgh	Cleveland	6.17	(3.00)	9.17	Pittsburgh
New England	Philadelphia	12.37	3.50	8.87	New England
Arizona	San Francisco	(19.37)	(11.50)	7.87	San Francisco
Chicago	LA Rams	(0.53)	(6.50)	5.97	Chicago
Kansas City	LA Chargers	9.20	4.00	5.20	Kansas City
Atlanta	Carolina	(9.40)	(5.50)	3.90	Carolina
Houston	Baltimore	(7.57)	(4.00)	3.57	Baltimore
Buffalo	Miami	9.47	6.00	3.47	Buffalo
Denver	Minnesota	(7.60)	(10.50)	2.90	Denver
NY Jets	Washington	1.45	(1.00)	2.45	NY Jets
Jacksonville	Indianapolis	(0.67)	(2.50)	1.83	Jacksonville
New Orleans	Tampa Bay	6.13	5.50	0.63	New Orleans
Dallas	Detroit	0.70	N/A	N/A	Detroit

The Week 11 Money Zone Picks are Chicago, Kansas City, Carolina, Baltimore, Buffalo, Denver, & NY Jets.

****2019 Money Zone picks are 23-40 ATS. All Time they are 295-257 (53.44%)****

"Shorestein Says" Picks of the Week: Each week I select between 3-5 of my favorite games and do additional analysis on them. I've highlighted the "Shorestein Says" picks of the week in yellow. Read below for my in-depth analysis. ****2019 "Shorestein Says" Picks of the Week are 18-22 ATS. 59-47 since last season (55.66%)****

NY Jets +1 @ Washington: For someone that prides themselves on making predictions based on teams with efficient passing games, it feels very odd to back the NY Jets. However, as I pointed out 2 weeks ago, the Redskins are starting a young quarterback who still is not close to being NFL ready. Here is an updated chart of how Haskins has performed in his three appearances this season:

Dwayne Haskins' Shakey Start						
Opponent	Completions	Attempts	QB Rating	Sacks	INT's	Sack or INT %
Giants	9.00	17.00	32.80	2.00	3.00	26.32%
Vikings	3.00	5.00	40.00	2.00	1.00	42.86%
Bills	15.00	22.00	86.20	4.00	-	15.38%
Totals	27.00	44.00	42.20	8.00	4.00	23.08%

He's clearly not ready even just by looking at this small sample. Haskins is still getting sacked or intercepted on just under a quarter of drop backs... It's no wonder why they haven't scored an offensive touchdown in any of the 3 games that he's played.

Given all that poor statistical information, it's hard to buy Washington against any team, let alone a favorite. The one productive feature for Washington's offense has been its ability to run the ball. However, defending the run is a strength for the Jets defense. At 3.0 yards / carry, the Jets defense ranks #1 in the NFL. I wouldn't expect the Redskins to be able to run on Sunday, and this will put Haskins in a very compromised situation.

While the Jets offense has obviously been no prize, we've seen flashes of Darnold's potential in games against Dallas and last week vs. the Giants. Darnold needs to see better protection like he did last week. He's been sacked at the 2nd highest % in the league, and this is the one area where Washington should have an advantage. I'd like to see him target Crowder and Bell out of the backfield with quick throws. The Redskins secondary has been brutal, and there should be easy plays to make.

Pittsburgh +2.5 @ Cleveland: I've backed Pittsburgh this season more times than I've picked them in probably the last 3 years. The defense continues to dominate, and they continue to be underdogs week in and week out. This is another instance where I see Pittsburgh's defense as the only reliable unit in the matchup, and Cleveland's efficiency metrics rank near the bottom of the league across the board. Freddie Kitchens makes Mike Tomlin look like Vince Lombardi. Here's a comparison of how both teams performed in the efficiency categories that I assign the highest values on:

<i>Pittsburgh vs. Cleveland Efficiency Comparison</i>				
Team	Passer Rating Differential	Yards / Point Margin	Penalty Yardage	Turnover Differential
Steelers	3.10 (15th)	3.10 (7th)	64.30 (22nd)	1.40 (2nd)
Browns	-24.40 (29th)	-3.8 (28th)	77.90 (31st)	-.90 (28th)

I simply refuse to back teams that have played so profoundly inefficient as a favorite.

TJ Watt has catapulted himself into the defensive player of the year and should feast on this bad offensive line. The Steelers front seven has been dynamic over the past month. They continue to produce takeaways and touchdowns on a regular basis, and Baker Mayfield turns the ball over with regularity. Cleveland has run the ball well this year, so the Steelers defense will have to respect that.

Offensively, I've seen some progress from Mason Rudolph. I still would like to see him release the ball quicker, but he seems to be developing a rapport with his young receiving corps. Cleveland's defense has been effective at rushing the passer, but Pittsburgh continues to receive great protection from its stellar line play. At 3.55%, only the Cowboys have been sacked at a lower rate than Pittsburgh. The Steelers have had some problems with drops lately, they've got to catch the ball better to win on the road on a Thursday. I think if they're able to sure that area up, they should win this divisional game against an inferior opponent. This will probably get labeled as a "trap bet", but with Kitchens and Mayfield setting the trap, I'm more than willing to take a shot.

Chicago +6.5 @ LA Rams: I am honestly floored at how bad both of these teams with high hopes coming into the season have performed. Before the season started, I assumed this game would have top seed ramifications, but that is certainly not looking like the case...

I do however like the Bears defense to keep the game close. This defense suffocated the high-flying Rams a season ago, and really shook the foundation of LA's offense. I really don't think Goff looked comfortable since the Bears completely dominated this Rams team last season. As I pointed out last week, Goff has been pounded by teams with strong defenses as Pittsburgh did what I expected. As bad as Trubisky has been this year, you could make the case that Goff has been worse:

<i>Goff vs. Trubisky</i>			
<u>Player</u>	<u>QB Rating</u>	<u>Yards / Attempt</u>	<u>INT's</u>
Goff	82.70	7.40	9.00
Trubisky	85.20	5.80	3.00

I think with Trubisky, you're more likely to get a 3 & out than a back-breaking turnover. I don't think that's the case with Goff. When your defense is as good as Chicago's, a 3 & out won't kill your chances of winning. I think at this point, the Rams are still being treated like the offensive juggernaut they were last year, when in reality, they've had some massive struggles at the end of last year and strong defenses have picked up on those tendencies this year.

Houston @ Baltimore -4: Baltimore has emerged as the 2nd best team in the AFC. While Lamar Jackson has been incredible during this run, I think the defense has quietly steadied the course and improved greatly over the last month. Much to my surprise, Marcus Peters has been a factor in the secondary and with Jimmy Smith back on the field, I don't think there's a better group of corners in the NFL. Over the past 3 games, this defense has returned to its dominant ways that we've been accustomed to seeing for the past few years:

<i>Ravens Defensive Revival</i>					
<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Points Allowed</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Turnovers Forced</u>	<u>Yards / Rush</u>	<u>DEF QB Rating</u>
Seattle	16.00	1.00	2.00	4.08	65.20
New England	20.00	2.00	2.00	4.35	80.40
Cincinnati	13.00	2.00	3.00	3.93	66.90

It was certainly impressive to see it done vs. Brady and Russell Wilson. I think that they have the talent in the secondary to give Deshaun Watson problems like the Panthers and Jaguars were able to at times earlier this season. I think the Ravens could still be vulnerable against the run, but the Texans run game does not scare me.

The Ravens offense has been incredible in 2019. I don't think anyone expected it to be this prolific:

<i>Ravens Explosive Offense</i>				
<u>Points / Game</u>	<u>Passer Rating</u>	<u>Yards / Rush</u>	<u>Red Zone TD %</u>	<u>3rd Down %</u>
33.33 (1st)	101.30 (8th)	5.50 (1st)	65.71% (5th)	48.60% (2nd)

I think this offense is for real, and there hasn't been a team that has been able to slow it down yet. They are able to stay ahead of down and distances, while mixing in explosive plays over the top. I don't think Bill O'Brien and the Texans will be the ones to do it.

Random Thoughts:

- I know this is a classic gambler's cliché, but I was so close to 3-0-1 last week if McCaffery extended at the goal line, and the Cowboys did not to melt down on their final drive.... Ah!
- I'm excited to see the Eagles/Patriots rematch. Belichick after a loss and coming off a bye seems like a recipe for a win... but I think that the Eagles are 1 of only a handful of teams that will not be afraid of the Patriots.
- I like Denver as double digit+ dogs. My only hesitation is the uncertainty of their young QB. I think they have the defense that can make Cousins struggle.
- Jacksonville is another game I'd lean on. I've been a seller on the Colts for almost 2 years now.
- The Dolphins have quietly returned to just a bad NFL team. They are no longer in the category of historically awful.
- Carolina feels like they should roll the Falcons. Atlanta got a win against the hated Saints last week, and they are just waiting for Dan Quinn to get canned. Perfect time for them to let up.
- I'd also expect the 49ers and Saints to come back with angry, decisive victories this week.
- With Stafford's status up in the air, I haven't seen a line on the Detroit/Dallas game.

Good Luck Everyone!



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