

ShoresteinSays.com 2019 - NFL Week 12

"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 ~55% 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 12					
Away	Home	Calculated Spread	Actual Spread	Calculated vs Actual	Projected Winner ATS
Seattle	Philadelphia	6.33	(1.50)	7.83	Seattle
Dallas	New England	(12.23)	(6.50)	5.73	New England
Tampa Bay	Atlanta	(8.83)	(4.00)	4.83	Atlanta
Baltimore	LA Rams	7.23	3.00	4.23	Baltimore
Green Bay	San Francisco	(6.73)	(3.00)	3.73	San Francisco
Miami	Cleveland	(8.40)	(11.00)	2.60	Miami
NY Giants	Chicago	(8.13)	(6.00)	2.13	Chicago
Denver	Buffalo	(5.57)	(4.00)	1.57	Buffalo
Oakland	NY Jets	4.40	3.00	1.40	Oakland
Jacksonville	Tennessee	(3.50)	(3.00)	0.50	Tennessee
Carolina	New Orleans	(9.97)	(9.50)	0.47	New Orleans
Detroit	Washington	3.93	3.50	0.43	Detroit
Pittsburgh	Cincinnati	6.57	7.00	0.43	Cincinnati
Indianapolis	Houston	(3.57)	(4.00)	0.43	Indianapolis

The Week 12 Money Zone Picks are New England, Atlanta, Baltimore, San Francisco, Miami, & Chicago.

****2019 Money Zone picks are 28-42 ATS. All Time they are 300-259 (53.66%)****

"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 20-24 ATS. 61-49 since last season (55.45%)****

Oakland -3 @ NY Jets: The Jets were in a perfect betting spot last weekend against a college caliber quarterback in Dwayne Haskins. I think this game is an equally as good opportunity to fade the Jets against a better opponent after a deceiving blowout win. The Jets have struggled to get pressure on the quarterback for virtually the entire season, with last week being an exception against a porous Redskins offensive line and inept QB. This week is completely different, the Raiders have protected Carr better than the vast majority of NFL quarterbacks this season as he's been sacked only about 4% of pass plays. With the protection as good as it is, I think Carr should have all day to pick apart the weak Jets corners who haven't been able to cover all year.

While the Raiders have had one of the best run games in the NFL, I think they will be best served going play-action the majority of the time as the Jets are one of the strongest run defenses. Oakland has shown efficiency through the air with Carr having close to a career best season in most categories:

Derek Carr's Strong Season					
<u>Season</u>	<u>QB Rating</u>	<u>Yards / Attempt</u>	<u>TD's</u>	<u>INT</u>	<u>TD / INT ratio</u>
2019	105.20	8.00	15.00	5.00	3.00
Career Averages	90.40	6.80	122.00	54.00	2.26

Oakland is generally a tough team for me to support as they historically have yielded some huge passer ratings over the last few seasons. This has mainly been due to their lack of pass rushers, but I think their young defensive line is starting to reverse that trend. Crosby and Ferrell have shown great flashes, and the Jets have one of the worst offensive lines in the NFL. Only the Titans have gotten sacked at a higher rate than Jets' quarterbacks this season. I think Oakland has the ability to get to Darnold and we've seen what can happen once he starts seeing pressure in his face.

Green Bay @ San Francisco -3: The 49ers are the better team at home in this prime time matchup. Kyle Shanahan has shown great ability in his game plans in his young career. I think the 49ers will have an abundance of opportunities to attack the Green Bay defense which gives up yards in chunks. They are the classic bend but don't break defense, as they have played well in the red zone after giving up tons of yardage. The 49ers run the ball more than any other team in the NFL, and I am confident that they will be able to score this weekend. Garoppolo can't throw his careless trademark interceptions. This has to be a point of emphasis this week.

On the other side of the ball, I think Rodgers will be in trouble. Generally, he likes to buy extra time by moving outside the pocket in order to throw downfield. I just don't think this strategy will hold up against this defensive line that has decimated quarterbacks all year. They are deep with talent and they come in relentless waves. If Rodgers doesn't get rid of the ball quickly, he will have a long night. The last time he faced significant pressure was in their loss against the Chargers. He saw edge pressure from the Joey Bosa and Melvin Ingram and he continued to hold onto the ball far too long. The Chargers destroyed Green Bay in time of possession and completely dominated the game:

Rodgers Last Game Under Pressure				
<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Points Scored</u>	<u>Yards / Att</u>	<u>Sacked</u>	<u>QB Rating</u>
At Chargers	11.00	4.60	3.00	85.50

I think this is a much better defense than what they saw in LA, and they are committed to running the ball. I expect the 49ers to win this game by more than a touchdown.

Miami +10.5 @ Cleveland: As I've said for the past month, Miami has quietly returned to just a generically bad team in the NFL. I see them as no different than the Jets, Bucs, or Giants who are all underdogs by significantly less points against worse competition. With that said, I refuse to believe in Cleveland as a double-digit favorite. Fitzpatrick has won straight up at Indy and had the lead for the bulk of the game at Pittsburgh, two teams that are alive in the playoff hunt. Over the last 3 games, these teams are virtually identical in passing offense:

Last 3 Game Average for both Passing Offenses				
<u>Team</u>	<u>QB Rating</u>	<u>Points / Game</u>	<u>Yards / Attempt</u>	<u>Yards / Point Margin</u>
Dolphins	92.00	20.70	6.20	1.90
Browns	95.20	19.20	6.00	1.60

While the strength of schedule has been more difficult for the Browns over this sample, the Dolphins have outperformed them in many offensive efficiency categories since Fitzpatrick has taken over. And as I've already said a million times this year, I can't get behind Freddie Kitchens as a significant favorite. The penalties, turnovers, and lack of discipline will derail opportunities to pull away.

After getting a pretty significant win last Thursday, I think Cleveland sucked out all the momentum they had going with the Myles Garrett helmet swinging fiasco. For one, they lose their best player on defense and maybe their best player overall. I think the protection plan for Miami completely changes and gets easier with him out of the game. While the Miami offensive line is still an area of concern, I don't think the Browns have any game-breaking talent on the defensive line. And as I've mentioned above, the Dolphins have shown adequate passing efficiency over the last month or so.

Denver @ Buffalo -4: I see Denver taking a step back after blowing a 20-point halftime lead against the Vikings. A loss like that often has meaningful consequences that can linger into the next week. Vic Fangio and the coaching staff are clearly on edge, and I would not be surprised to see some of their veteran players start to check out mentally.

Buffalo, on the other hand, is in the midst of a playoff run and they continue to be a dominant defensive team. Brandon Allen, the young current starter for the Broncos, does not look like the answer to me. I think Buffalo has been an extremely tough environment even for some of the best quarterbacks in the league this year. Denver has found a way to stay competitive in the majority of their games this season, but I think this is finally the week they run out of gas.

Buffalo's Pass Defense			
Yards / Attempt	Scoring Defense	Opponent Yards / Play	3rd Down %
5.70 (3rd)	17.0 (3rd)	4.90 (4th)	34.56% (6th)

This has certainly been a top 5 defense all year, and they should make life very difficult for Brandon Allen.

Offensively, I've trashed Josh Allen for almost 2 years now. But he has now had a stretch of 5 straight games without throwing an interception. Is it possible that someone on that coaching staff told him how good is defense is? Well, let's hope that he keeps it going for at least one more game.

In all seriousness, he has played well this season. He's had 5 games this season in which he's posted a 98 or better QB rating. All I'm looking for is a turnover-free, efficient game manager that can mix in a handful of explosive plays to compliment the strong defense.

Random Thoughts:

- Finally, a dominant 5-2 Money Zone week!!!.... I swear, if you're a new member, these happened with regularity over the past 4 years.... Hopefully we are back on track.

- My pre-season darling Chicago Bears look like they are officially cooked. Very disappointing season to see Nagy/Trubisky waste a Super Bowl caliber defense.
- My formula has calculated 5 of the 14 games to under a point difference from the spread. This is typically the case as the statistics generated this year hold more weight. It also has historically been the best time to utilize the Money Zone games.
- My quest to fade Dwayne Haskins is on hold this week. I'm assuming Stafford will not play, and I can not trust a Driskel/Patricia-led soft Lions team as FG+ road favorites against anyone.... Even though the sack/INT %'s may be unprecedented for the opposing quarterback.
- I can't wait for the Cowboys/Patriots game. I think the Cowboys have talent to exploit a lot of the Patriots' weaknesses, but the Belichick/Garrett mismatch is too much to ignore. And the Patriots have been a force at home.
- The Falcons pass rush has emerged from the dead. The team that we saw for the last 2 weeks came out of nowhere. I just don't understand that team.
- The Thursday Night game is important for both teams. That Indy offensive line is devastating, especially in underdog situations. I'd expect an ugly, grind-out type game going against a banged up Watson.

Good Luck Everyone!



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