ShoresteinSays.com 2019 - NFL Week 16

"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 16					
Away	Home	Calculated Spread	Actual Spread	Calculated vs Actual	Projected Winner ATS
Arizona	Seattle	(16.63)	(9.00)	7.63	Seattle
LA Rams	San Francisco	(13.00)	(6.00)	7.00	San Francisco
New Orleans	Tennessee	(3.83)	2.00	5.83	Tennessee
Buffalo	New England	(11.53)	(6.50)	5.03	New England
Pittsburgh	NY Jets	(1.23)	3.00	4.23	NY Jets
Jacksonville	Atlanta	(3.63)	(7.00)	3.37	Jacksonville
Oakland	LA Chargers	(2.86)	(5.50)	2.64	Oakland
Detroit	Denver	(9.00)	(6.50)	2.50	Denver
NY Giants	Washington	-	(2.50)	2.50	NY Giants
Carolina	Indianapolis	(4.13)	(6.50)	2.37	Carolina
Houston	Tampa Bay	1.07	3.00	1.93	Tampa Bay
Green Bay	Minnesota	(5.87)	(4.50)	1.37	Minnesota
Cincinnati	Miami	(2.03)	(1.00)	1.03	Miami
Baltimore	Cleveland	10.43	10.00	0.43	Baltimore
Dallas	Philadelphia	2.07	2.50	0.43	Philadelphia
Kansas City	Chicago	4.60	5.00	0.40	Chicago

The Week 16 Money Zone picks are Tennessee, New England, NY Jets, Denver, Jacksonville, NY Giants, Oakland, & Carolina

2019 Money Zone picks are 38-55 ATS. All Time they are 312-273 (53.33%)

"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 28-31 ATS. 69-56 since last season (55.20%) **

Kansas City -5 @ Chicago: Kansas City has quietly become one of the most dangerous under the radar teams in the NFL. The Chiefs defense had another dominating performance in the snow against an outmatched Denver team. I was very impressed with how they handled the conditions that could very well be a factor against the Bears next weekend. I'd expect to see a let down from Chicago after they look to be officially eliminated from the NFC playoff picture. They had played their best football of the year over the last month, and now that there is no chance for them to advance, I think you'll see that they are out of gas.

As I mentioned above, I am most impressed with the revitalization of the Kansas City defense. Here is a summary of much they have improved over the last month:

Chiefs Defensive Turnaround			
Opponent	**Points Allowed**	**Def. QB Rating**	**Yards Allowed per Rush**	**Turnovers Forced**
Chargers	17.00	49.60	4.89	4.00
Oakland	9.00	71.80	4.88	3.00
New England	16.00	63.30	4.27	1.00
Denver	3.00	50.80	3.50	1.00

The average yards allowed per rush has gone down in 4 straight games and they've forced 9 turnovers in this 4 game stretch. If anything, this has shown that Steve Spagnolo's defensive unit can at least shut down weaker offenses. Chicago certainly falls into that weaker offense category.

While I still believe Chicago has probably the most talented defensive roster in the league, Kansas City may have the most talented offense. I don't think the Bears will have an answer for Tyreek Hill. They generally leave their talented corners on an island, and I think they could really get burned if they don't adjust against the fastest receiver in the NFL. Kelce has really heated up as of late, and without Roquon Smith, the Bears will lose one of their best speed/cover linebackers. I worry about the Chiefs ability to stop powerful run games with physical offensive lines, and this simply hasn't been the Bears this season. Kansas City should roll.

Houston -2.5 @ Tampa Bay: Tampa Bay has played great the last few weeks. Jameis Winston has really aired it out and has avoided the critical turnovers in wins over Indy and Detroit. I still believe he is a ticking time bomb, and I am much more confident in Deshaun Watson as a field general especially in a small spread game.

The Texans offense should continue its dominant performance that it started against a much better defense on the road in Tennessee. I tend to worry about the Texans when they are facing high pressure defenses that can really sack the quarterback. Houston can be exposed on the offensive line, but Tampa is really a one man pass rush with Shaquille Barrett, and aside from that they only rank 23rd in sack % at 5.94%. Houston's wide receiving corps is a matchup nightmare for the Tampa secondary. With Will Fuller in the lineup, this is a much more dynamic passing attack. Their speed should give Tampa huge problems.

The Bucs offense will likely be without Mike Evans again, and emerging star Chris Godwin could also be on the shelf. Although Tampa has shown great flashes on offense, I think they will finally run out of steam as their explosive weapons are vanishing by the week. Houston can be had on the ground, but Tampa is one of the least efficient running teams in the NFL. Breshad Perriman had a big week against the Lions, but there's a reason why he's played for 3 different teams in his 4 year career….

Jacksonville +7 @ Atlanta: In this battle of two mediocre to bad teams, I think Jacksonville has a major advantage with its pass rush. I've seen Matt Ryan fold under pressure way too many times this year to believe that they can handle being TD favorites against a team that excels at rushing the quarterback. The Jaguars sack the quarterback on 8.67% of attempts, and that puts them at 4th in the NFL. Jacksonville has one of the league's worst run defenses, but Atlanta has no ability to exploit that weakness. Atlanta ranks 30th in rush attempts at 21.90 per game, and they only average 3.7 yards per rush. I think Atlanta is a 1 dimensional offense that can run into huge problems with its porous offensive line. You saw it happen all night on Thanksgiving, when the Saints defensive line put on a

clinic, and the Falcons coaching staff did absolutely nothing to adjust to the heat Matt Ryan was facing all night.

Gardner Minshew has been all over the map this season, but he has shown that he can produce against bad defenses:

Minshew vs. Bad Pass Defense			
Opponent	**QB Rating**	**Result**	**Yards / Attempt**
Oakland	102.8	W 20-16	6.93
NY Jets	119.6	W 29-15	8.21
Cincinnati	84.8	W 27-17	7.97
Carolina	101.9	L 27-34	8.50

Atlanta ranks 25th in passer rating defense at 99.50 and 26th in yards / attempt allowed at 7.4. I've done some of my best work against bad defenses as heavy favorites, and I think this is no different.

Oakland +5.5* @ *LA Chargers: I'm fading Philip Rivers again here. I've never been a fan of backing Rivers as a favorite, and I'm even less likely to do so in a divisional game. Rivers has been a turnover machine this year. He's thrown 11 interceptions in the last 5 games. At this point in his career, I don't think it's acceptable for him to lay this many points.

The Raiders play a pretty conservative brand of football that keeps them in most games. They've got a physical run game and offensive line and I really like their ability to control the tempo and the clock in underdog situations. They were close to TD underdogs on the road against Houston and Indy and covered in both of those situations, including an outright win against the Colts. The Chargers almost always find themselves in dog fights as 10 of their 15 games have been decided by 7 points or less.
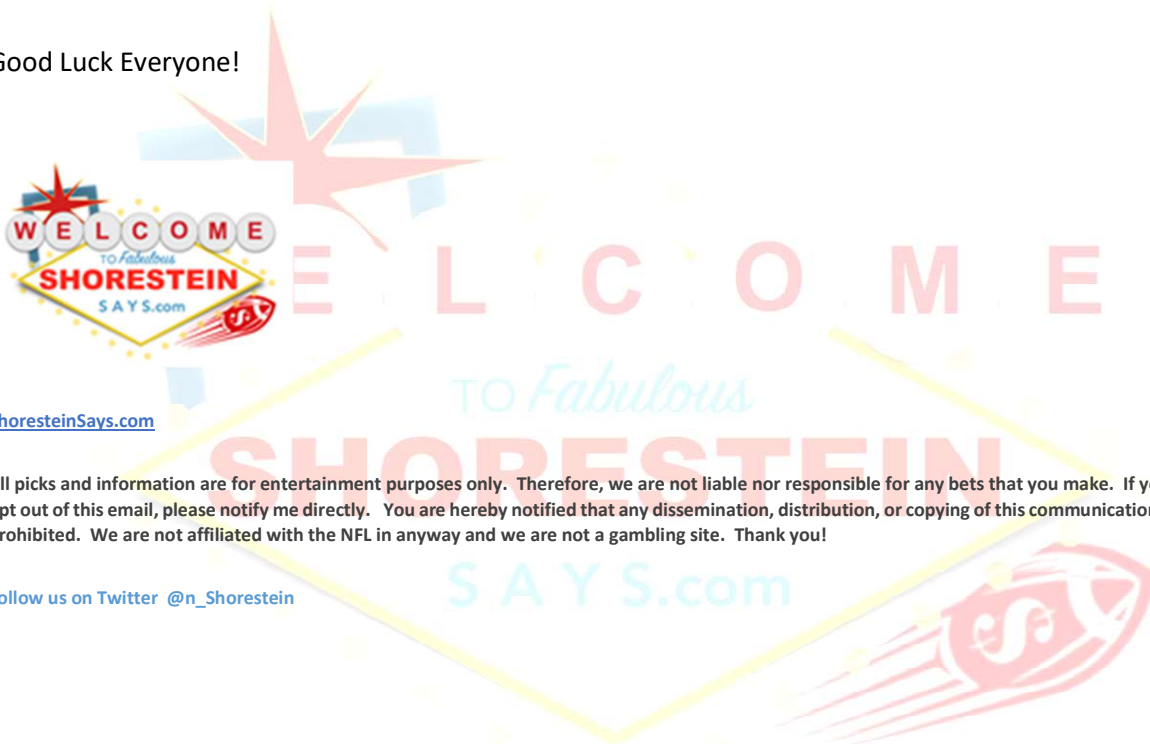
The Raiders are vulnerable in the secondary, but this Chargers passing attack is not what it used to be. The best weapon in the passing game has been Austin Ekeler. He's been virtually a non factor against the Raiders in the past as he's only had 4 career receptions in 5 career games. I'm not overly concerned as I think Rivers is more apt to make the critical mistake then complete a game changing play.

Random Thoughts

- Lots of big divisional games this weekend… Bills/Pats, Rams/Niners, & Packers/Vikings all will have huge playoff ramifications. The Bills defense is excellent, but I still am unsure about Josh Allen's ball security issues.

- I'm leaning both on the Titans and Eagles as home dogs. I think these are potential trap bets for the public. The Titans and Eagles have great track records as home underdogs and these are monumental games for both. The Titans seem to play their best football against elite opponents.

- Cincinnati vs. Miami may be the worst matchup in recent history. Two awful teams with completely lifeless fanbases.

- I think Baltimore will certainly get revenge on Cleveland, but 10 points feels like a lot. Lamar Jackson has earned the MVP this year and that team is a wagon that should certainly represent the AFC in the Super Bowl.

- Look for Seattle to finish off Arizona before its final week showdown against the 49ers.

- Carolina had a devastating backdoor push, but not nearly as devastating as the Eagles miracle last play TD to get the cover over Washington. Thoughts and prayers to all Washington bettors.

- Steelers at Jets also feels like a trap. Getting déjà vu on the bets that I made on Oakland and Dallas in the same situation. But I just can't get behind Adam Gase. I can't stand his play calling.

Good Luck Everyone!

ShoresteinSays.com

Follow us on Twitter @n_Shorestein