

ShoresteinSays.com 2019 - NFL Week 17

"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 17					
Away	Home	Calculated Spread	Actual Spread	Calculated vs Actual	Projected Winner ATS
New Orleans	Carolina	6.17	13.00	6.83	Carolina
Green Bay	Detroit	6.13	12.50	6.37	Detroit
San Francisco	Seattle	(2.00)	3.50	5.50	Seattle
LA Chargers	Kansas City	(13.83)	(9.00)	4.83	Kansas City
Miami	New England	(20.43)	(16.00)	4.43	New England
Arizona	LA Rams	(9.40)	(6.00)	3.40	LA Rams
Cleveland	Cincinnati	0.10	3.00	2.90	Cincinnati
Atlanta	Tampa Bay	(2.10)	-	2.10	Tampa Bay
Philadelphia	NY Giants	2.13	4.00	1.87	NY Giants
Washington	Dallas	(9.27)	(11.00)	1.73	Washington
Indianapolis	Jacksonville	4.87	4.50	0.37	Indianapolis
Oakland	Denver	(3.20)	(3.00)	0.20	Denver
Games With Teams Potentially Resting Players for the Playoffs					
Pittsburgh	Baltimore	(15.33)	2.00	17.33	Baltimore
Chicago	Minnesota	(11.10)	3.00	14.10	Minnesota
NY Jets	Buffalo	(8.47)	(1.00)	7.47	Buffalo
Tennessee	Houston	1.60	5.50	3.90	Houston

The Week 17 Money Zone picks are Seattle, Kansas City, New England, LA Rams, Cincinnati, & Tampa Bay.

****2019 Money Zone picks are 43-57 ATS. All Time they are 317-276 (53.46%)****

"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 31-32 ATS. 72-57 since last season (55.81%)****

Oakland @ Denver -3: Drew Lock has had an impressive start to his young career. He's starting off on the same page with stud receiver Courtland Sutton. In his 3-1 start, he's had some solid numbers:

Drew Lock, Hot out of the Gate			
Opponent	Points Scored	Result	QB Ratings
LA Chargers	23.00	W	84.50
Houston	38.00	W	136.00
Kansas City	3.00	L	50.80
Detroit	27.00	W	99.60

Keep in mind that the Chiefs game was played in blizzard conditions....

What stands out to me here, is that he has shown the ability to exploit bad defenses. The Chargers, Texans, and Lions have ranked near the bottom in pass defense for the majority of the season. To go along with that theme, the Raiders are the kings of bad defense. Oakland can't stop any semblance of a passing game. They are getting ready to finish the year with another 100+ defensive passer rating. The Broncos have issues on the offensive line, but I don't think Oakland can take advantage of it.

<i>The Raiders Still Can't Stop the Pass</i>				
Season	Opponent Passer Rating	Yards Allowed / Pass	Sack %	Points Allowed
2019	104.60 (31st)	7.9 (32nd)	5.68% (25th)	26.90 (27th)
2018	101.0 (29th)	8.0 (32nd)	2.64% (32nd)	29.20 (32nd)

Denver's defense has been consistent all year. There is a lot of promise in that unit, and I'd expect them to finish the season strong. Fangio needs to get a W here to convince management to bring him back. The Raiders, on the other hand, don't really have anything to play for and are coming off a win at LA. I think it's likely that they'll come out flat following a satisfying win against a division rival.

Indianapolis -4 @ Jacksonville: Jacksonville has been one of the worst run defenses for virtually the entire season. I love Indy's power running attack in this one. The Colts are the better coached team that is trying to close out its disappointing season on a positive note. They dismantled a very similar Carolina team a week ago. The Panthers have also been a team with an awful run defense. I'd expect similar results here.

The evidence has mounted at how bad Jacksonville has struggled against the run this season:

<i>Jacksonville Exposed By Rushing Attacks</i>			
Opponent	Total Rushing Yards	Yards / Carry	Points Allowed
Atlanta	135.00	5.00	24.00
LA Chargers	195.00	6.50	45.00
Houston	216.00	6.35	26.00
Tennessee	219.00	6.64	42.00

Big, strong offense lines have decimated this Jaguars front seven. Indy should have no problem establishing tone in this AFC South rivalry which will likely be used to gain traction for next year. The once dominant Jaguar defense which I raved about for the past 2 seasons has clearly not been the same this year, and I'd expect them to mail it in if things don't go well for them early. Even soft teams like Atlanta, LA and Houston have run them over. This is clearly not a good sign of things to come for them in the matchup with the Colts.

Miami @ New England-16: This has 21+ point victory written all over it. The Dolphins have been horrible historically in these late season cold weather games in Foxboro.

Miami At Foxboro	
Season	Result
2018	38-7 W
2017	35-17 W
2016	31-24 W (Garoppolo Game)
2015	36-7 W

Foxboro, is where AFC East teams go to die...

Fitzpatrick has had a nice second half of the season, but the strength of the Miami offense plays right into the Patriots hands. Devante Parker is heavily used by the Dolphins and I'd expect Gilmore to smother him. Gilmore excels against the taller, athletic receivers. I think he has problems against smaller, shiftier wideouts. The Dolphins have virtually no run game. The Patriots have been vulnerable to strong running games, but the Dolphins do not have any threats left at that position and they are 31st in yards per carry. I'd expect to see a lot of 3 and outs. The Patriots still need this game, and more importantly need to build some offensive momentum going into the playoffs. Miami's defense is awful (30th in yards allowed per play), this should be a big day for Brady & Co and the perfect team to get back on track with before the playoff run.

San Francisco @ Seattle +3.5: I think you all knew this was coming before you even opened the email. Russell Wilson has owned both the underdog and prime time crowns. He's a big time player in these big games, I think it's an automatic play whenever these situations present themselves. Not only is Seattle a machine in prime time and as underdogs (14-8 ATS since 2016), they also excel in games following a loss (12-5 ATS since 2016).

The 49ers have been excellent all year, but I think Garoppolo may have had his shakiest outing against this Seattle defense. Clowney was in his face all night long, and he appears to be in line to play Sunday night along with Shaquil Griffin and Mychal Kendricks. Following the critical loss to Arizona, I'd be shocked if Seattle didn't come out flying propelled by the return of Marshawn Lynch. Chris Carson is a major loss for Seattle, but I've always bashed the play calling for being way too conservative when you have a top 3 quarterback in the NFL. I don't really know what to expect from Lynch, but I think this is a vintage Russell Wilson performance.

Washington +11 @ Dallas: The Dallas Cowboys are cooked in my opinion. Playing under a lame duck coach, I think an early score could start up the busses for Jerry Jones and the Boys. There is no heart on this team, and I don't care that they are playing an inept Redskins roster. I just don't think Dallas deserves to be laying double digits against anyone.

Case Keenum has been fine in his starts this season. If you're looking for a QB to lead you to an 8-8 season and cover a double digit spread without winning, this is your guy.

Case Keenum, King of Mediocrity			
	QB Rating	Yards / Pass	Comp %
Stat	96.70	7.1	67.60%
Projected Ranking	12th	13th	6th

Since he's been hurt, the Redskins have found some success running the ball. This is exactly where Dallas has been vulnerable. I also like Terry McLaurin on the outside. He's shown some great running and had a nice rapport with Keenum in the brief action that they saw together. I'll take my chances with Keenum and the points.

Random Thoughts

- I really like the board this week... Last time I said that, I went 4-0-1 with the picks of the week... I'd take that again in a heart beat!
- The playoff picture is just about set. I think this is definitely a more open year than normal. I think you've got Baltimore as the clear favorite, but after that there's 4-5 teams that have a realistic shot.
- I think Tennessee is a team that no one wants to see in the playoffs.
- Heading into the playoffs, I think Green Bay and Houston are two of the biggest fraud teams. Neither is strong defensively, and I think their offenses are over rated.

Good Luck Everyone!



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