ShoresteinSays.com 2020 - NFL Week 6

"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 600 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.

2020 Week 6					
Away	Home	Calculated Spread	Actual Spread	Calculated vs Actual	Projected Winner ATS
Denver	New England	(1.06)	(10.00)	8.94	Denver
Houston	Tennessee	(11.87)	(3.00)	8.87	Tennessee
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	(12.02)	(3.50)	8.52	Pittsburgh
Arizona	Dallas	(4.10)	2.50	6.60	Dallas
Detroit	Jacksonville	(1.25)	3.00	4.25	Jacksonville
Washington	NY Giants	1.69	(2.50)	4.19	Washington
Atlanta	Minnesota	(7.42)	(3.50)	3.92	Minnesota
Green Bay	Tampa Bay	4.50	1.00	3.50	Green Bay
Baltimore	Philadelphia	10.72	7.50	3.22	Baltimore
LA Rams	San Francisco	0.68	3.50	2.82	San Francisco
Chicago	Carolina	(3.81)	(2.50)	1.31	Carolina
Kansas City	Buffalo	2.35	3.50	1.15	Buffalo
Cincinnati	Indianapolis	(7.45)	(8.00)	0.55	Cincinnati
NY Jets	Miami	(9.88)	(10.00)	0.12	NY Jets

The Week 6 Money Zone picks are Jacksonville, Washington, Minnesota, Baltimore, San Francisco, & Green Bay

2020 Money Zone Record is 18-15 ATS (54.54%)

"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.

"Shorestein Says" Picks of the Week are 10-9 ATS in 2020 (52.63%)

LA Rams @ San Francisco +3.5: I like San Fran a lot in this spot. I'd expect to see a fired up 49ers squad after their embarrassing loss to Miami. Although the 49ers are devastated by injuries to key players, there is still more than enough talent to stay competitive in the NFC. In this Sunday night divisional showdown, I think San Francisco is really playing to save their season, as they can't afford to fall to 2-4 which would put them dead last in the NFC West.

Last season, the 49ers controlled both games against the Rams including an absolute beat down of Jared Goff when they last hosted them. Robert Saleh has really made a name for himself as a defensive coordinator and I am convinced that he will use a similar strategy that forced Goff into one of his worst games in his career in 2019:

2019 Goff at San Francisco					
Result	**Comp %**	**Passing Yards**	**Yards / Attempt**	**Sacks**	**QB Rating**
20-7 SF W	54.17%	74.00	3.25	4.00	60.80

It's extremely rare to see an NFL quarterback finish a game with under 100 yards passing.

Before their misstep against the Eagles, the 49ers have been a power house in the comfort of their home field on the prime stage. They slaughtered both the Packers and Browns there in 2019 with great offensive performances in a 31-3 win over Cleveland and a 37-8 win over Green Bay. I think Kyle Shanahan's game planning is too good to continue to see poor quarterback play from whoever gets the start on Sunday. There's simply too much talent with Deebo Samuel, George Kittle and now Aiyuk for them not to perform. I'd expect to see a run heavy game plan with lots of end arounds with the above players involved.

It's impossible for me to see this team fall to 0-4 at home, and essentially fall out of the NFC in mid October.

Green Bay -1 @ Tampa Bay: The Packers have been extremely impressive in the first month plus of 2020. This Packers team is currently averaging an astounding 38 points per game, and they have yet to turn the ball over in 2020. The Packers are getting excellent offensive line play as Rodgers has been sacked on ~2% (#1 in the NFL) of attempts and they are averaging 5.1 yards per carry (#5 in the NFL). Offensively, this team has been a juggernaut so far which has resembled what they were in Aaron Rodgers' MVP season.

I think the last few seasons, Green Bay has shown that they can be soft against the run and against tougher opponents. However, in this particular matchup, the Bucs aren't sound enough and they aren't disciplined enough to exploit it. Bruce Arians is not committed to the run game as a play caller as they average just 24 attempts per game which puts them at 26th in the NFL. I think they are far too often put in long yardage situations as they continue to rack up penalty yardage, which forces them to pass. They rank 31st in the NFL and give up 82 yards in penalties per game.

In terms of efficiency, this matchup is not even close. These are the statistics I look at before anything else:

Which Bay is More Efficient?				
Team	**Yards / Point Margin**	**Turnover Margin**	**Yards / Play**	**Passer Rating**
Tampa Bay	.20 (13th)	+.4 (12th)	5.6 (21st)	96.80 (16th)
Green Bay	2.3 (6th)	+.8 (8th)	6.8 (1st)	128.40 (2nd)

One of my favorite characteristics about this Packers team is that it has paired a high flying offense with an excellent pass rushing defense. I think they've tried to mirror the Chiefs, which is a great strategy, by utilizing elite defensive ends. The Smith's have really heated up the pass rush, as the Packers rank 6th in the NFL in sack % coming in at 8.28% per attempt.

Washington +2.5 @ NY Giants: Boy is this an ugly game, as two of the league's worst teams match up. I'm simply choosing the lesser of two evils in my opinion. When you look at the 4 units involved in this game, I think you have 3 units that are poor, and 1 unit that is above average. The 1 productive unit, I

would say is Washington's defense. They have an effective pass rush that I really think should control the game against the anemic Giants offense which has been prone to giving up negative plays and turnovers.

There's not a lot of good things I can say about Washington, but I think there's far more negative things I can say about the Giants. Since I have been writing newsletters since 2015, I can not recall a situation in which a team with a -30.00 passer rating differential has been favored. To provide some perspective, I went back and pulled the passer rating differential of the last 3 seasons' worst teams in the NFL and compared that to the current performance of the Giants:

Season	Team	Offensive Passer Rating	Def. Passer Rating	PRD	Team Record
2020	Washington	78.10	92.60	(14.50)	
2020	NY Giants	70.60	101.70	(31.10)	
2019	Cincinnati	76.20	95.40	(19.20)	2-14 (32nd)
2018	Arizona	69.00	96.10	(27.10)	3-13 (32nd)
2017	Cleveland	61.40	102.20	(40.80)	0-16 (32nd)

Only the 0-16 Browns had a worse passer rating differential than the Giants did on this list.

For Washington, I can say that they will be starting a better quarterback than Dwayne Haskins regardless of who gets the call. If they can play a safe game and run the ball without turnovers, I think they should win the game. An ugly, grind it out type game plan should be more than enough to beat the Giants.

Atlanta @ Minnesota -3.5: Much like the 49ers, the 1-4 Vikings are in a must win game to avoid falling so far out of the wildcard this early. I think they drew the perfect opponent that has no life and no ability to play defense at the moment. While the Vikings will likely be without Dalvin Cook, the backup running back in Alexander Mattison is almost as effective. He plays with the same powerful style and is also a very explosive runner. The Vikings need to run to be successful, but I think Justin Jefferson should be in line for a huge game for Minnesota. The soul-less Falcons pass defense has been torched countless times in this young season, and we all know at this point that Kirk Cousins is certainly capable of lighting up a bad defense. I look for him to match the type of game he had against the weak Texans defense in which he finished the game with a 120+ rating, threw for close to 12 yards per attempt, and led the offense to over 30 points.

Matt Ryan looks like he might be done at this point. Aside from his occasional connections with Calvin Ridley, the Falcons have no jump. On paper, people love to point to the big names, but in actuality it has been a below average unit for the 2nd consecutive year:

Falcons Offensive Woes			
Season	Yards / Pass Attempt	Red Zone TD %	3rd Down %	Yards / Play
2019	6.9 (14th)	51.67% (25th)	42.03% (10th)	5.5 (15th)
2020	6.7 (21st)	52.94% (26th)	40.58% (23rd)	5.6 (20th)

The Vikings have showed some flashes of young talent on defense, and I think that they can mix that in with the veterans that remain like Harrison Smith, Eric Kendricks, and Yannick Ngakue. They've been a very tough team to beat at home during Mike Zimmer's tenure.

Random Thoughts:

- I was surprised to see the Titans look so good on Tuesday Night given their huge layoff and inability to practice. I was not surprised to see Josh Allen come crashing back to Earth.

- Pittsburgh is very much looking like a top 3 team right now. The emergence of the young wide receivers combined with a tough defense makes them very formidable in the AFC.

- The Patriots look like they are getting too much love at -10 in most books? Denver is a play that almost looks too good to be true.

- Baltimore is an appealing Money Zone play, but I'm just a little concerned about their ability to run on Philly. Lamar Jackson hasn't looked like himself in the last few games either, but I think they should still win by a health margin.

- Last week I finally ended my cold streak of losing on the Panthers. I cannot tell you how many times they've disappointed me as a Shorestein Says pick of the week.

- My calculation has Buffalo, but I'd be shocked if the Chiefs didn't win by more than a TD. I don't see them losing 2 straight, and they've been an incredible road team these past few seasons.

- I'm not sure about Miami laying 10 points against anyone… Seems like an over reaction, but there's no chance I'm getting behind Adam Gase and the Jets at the moment.

Good Luck Everyone!