

#### Excellent COLLEGE SELECTIONS 3★ Very Good 2<u>★ Go</u>ód

# OTHER SELECTION

2★ ILLINOIS over Nebraska - IL opens against a B10 team (not including) LY) for the first time since 1996. Neb has won 4 of the 5 meetings but IL won in Lincoln for the first time since 1924 last year. The Illini were 16' pt dogs yet led 41-17 until the Huskers added a garbage time td w/2:11 left. IL is led by 40 Seniors on their roster including 22 Super Seniors. The Illini have 18 starters back including QB Brandon Peters who has a 21-8 ratio since '19. HC Scott Frost's tenure has been extremely disappointing and news of an NCAA investigation is an unwelcome distraction. Neb has 17 starters back. QB Martinez is a skilled runner but only has a 14-12 ratio since '19. IL is our #15 most exp'd team while Neb only comes in at #75. Brett Bielema takes over at IL and unlike most first year head coaches, he's got the personnel he's looking for with 5 talented OL that both he and former HC Lovie Smith felt are NFL caliber. The Huskers bring back 7 starters on offense but lost their most talented guy in Wan'Dale Robinson. IL has 9 starters back on defense including LB Jake Hansen who originally declared for the NFL but ultimately chose to come back. Neb is 6-11 ATS against B10 foes since '19 and they've lost 3 straight road openers. Bielema will try to get his first season at Illinois started with a home upset of a conference rival and we think he pulls it off.

### FORECAST: ILLINOIS by 1

### **OTHER GAMES**

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 28th

UCLA by 7 over Hawaii - Teams have met 4 previous times with UCLA going 3-0. The Bruins return 10 starters on offense led by QB Thompson-Robinson and all 5 starting OL return. The only starter lost for UCLA is their top RB from LY. UCLA also brings back 10 st'rs on defense. UH brings back 18 st'rs incl all 11 on DEF led by LB Muasau. Last meeting was back in '17 when UH traveled to the Rose Bowl & lost 56-23. UCLA HC Kelly is only 6-11 SU at home and 2-6 ATS as a HF and has lost 5 of those games outright. Kelly is also 0-6 SU (1-5 ATS) in non-conf games including going 0-5 SU and ATS against non-Power 5 foes. UH is just 3-8 ATS since '14 in road non-conf games, but UH HC Graham has had a full offseason with the team and will have them believing they can win. UH QB Cordeiro is a dual-threat talent who led the team in rushing LY and RB/WR Calvin Turner is a dynamic offensive weapon. While we think UCLA comes away with the win, keep in mind they do have a big home game against LSU on deck.

Utep by 4 over NEW MEXICO ST- NMSt has won the last 3 meetings of the I-10 Rivalry including the last 2 meetings in Las Cruces by 9 & 27 points. The favorite has is 6-0-2 ATS in this series. The Aggies only have 3 starters back from '19 when they went 2-10. HC Martin used their 2 games in the spring as scrimmages and played everyone he could to get experience. UTEP brings back 19 starters and we do think Dana Dimel is doing a great job of getting things turned around in El Paso but their 3 wins last year came against two FCS schools and 0-10 ULM. New Mexico St added some talented pieces like RB O'Maury Samuels who was originally at Michigan and C Eli Johnson who started 12 games at Ole Miss, plus LT Sage Doxtater returns after turning down the NFL. New Mexico St has lost 6 straight season openers but UTEP is 0-6 SU/ATS in road openers. The Miners obviously have a huge edge in experience but Doug Martin is an excellent coach that will have the Aggies better than people expect.

FRESNO ST by 31 over Uconn - First Meeting. Fresno is 3-1-2 ATS s/'15 in home openers. UConn comes into this mtg 0-3 SU & 1-2 ATS vs current MW teams including a 62-7 loss at Boise in '18. Fresno comes into '21 with 9 returning stirs on offense incl QB Haener, RB Rivers, WR Cropper and a trio of starting OL. Fresno also brings back 10 st'rs on DEF led by a strong DLine & talented pair of LB's. After choosing not to play LY (covid) this will be UConn's first game since Nov of '19. UConn also left the AAC after the '19 ssn so they are now playing as an Independent. HC Edsall has his work cut out for him but UConn did put in a lot of work last fall & in the spring. UConn brings back 7 st'rs on offense incl talented RB Kevin Mensah (1013 yds in '19) & they return 7 DEF stirs. Uconn lost road games by an avg of 28 pts in '19 and they are just 2-9 ATS as an AD since '18. Fresno is 9-4-1 ATS against non-conf foes dating back to '17. Despite the near 4-td line we'll lean slightly with Fresno as they are the stronger team & are facing a UConn team travelling cross country that has not played a game in over 600 days.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28TH								
	Ttl Yds	Rush	Pass	Points	TO's	ST's		
NEBRASKA	414	218	196	32	0	-		
ILLINOIS	385	201	184	29	0	~~~		
Note to not fear an end of the IV/a 44,00 hours been also and the second state of AV at the The IV/at and								

Neb is out for revenge after LY's 41-23 home loss where IL came in as 16' pt dogs. The Illini are an experienced team with 40 seniors including 22 super seniors. Neb is a 6' pt favorite at presstime and PP calls for the Illini to keep it close, only losing by a fg while being outgained 414-385.

	NO PL	AY: NEBRAS	SKA 32 ILLII	VOIS 29		
	Ttl Yds	Rush	Pass	Points	TO's	ST's
HAWAII	311	110	201	24	0	-
UCLA	485	241	244	38	0	-

PP calls for UCLA to put up nearly 500 yds on Hawaii and win by 14 pts. While we think UCLA will get the win Hawaii has plenty of talent to hang around and stay within the line espcially with UCLA potentially looking ahead to their marquee matchup against LSU at home the following week. However the lean is not strong enough to make this a star-rated play.

NO PLAY: UCLA 38 HAWAII 24						
	Ttl Yds	Rush	Pass	Points	TO's	ST's
UTEP	444	213	231	38	0	~
NEW MEXICO ST	395	146	249	34	0	-

The Aggies didn't play last fall and their 2 games vs FCS foes in the spring were used as scrimmages to build depth. PP projects UTEP to break their 3 game I-10 rivalry losing streak. HC Dimel has UTEP on the right track but not enough for us to lay nearly DD's on the Miners. Doug Martin knows how important this rivalry is and will get the Aggies to keep it closer than expected and PP agrees, calling for UTEP to only win by 4 points and the yards also suggests playing the underdog.

2★ NEW MEXICO ST (+) 34 UTEP 38							
	Ttl Yds	Rush	Pass	Points	TO's	ST's	
CONNECTICUT	268	115	153	20	0	~	
FRESNO ST	575	183	392	47	0	-	

First-ever meeting. This is UConn's first game in nearly 2 years. The computer projects Fresno to outgain UConn by nearly 300 yards and win by almost 4 TD's. However, with Power Plays calling for this game to finish right around the Vegas line, it's a no play for us.

NO PLAY: FRESNO ST 47 CONNECTICUT 20

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