

**Football Weekly - BY MATTHEW HATFIELD**  
**College Football - Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

**College Football Picks: Thursday 11-4-04 & Friday - 11-5-04**

Thurs. - #16 Louisville @ Memphis	SU Pick: Memphis 35-34	ATS Pick: MEM +14
Fri. - Marshall @ Akron	SU Pick: Marshall 28-14	ATS Pick: MAR -8
Fri. - North Texas @ La Lafayette	SU Pick: North Texas 20-6	ATS Pick: NT -2.5

**LOCK: Over 62 in the Louisville-Memphis Game and North Texas -2.5 (UN 54)**  
**UPSET SPECIAL: Memphis SU & +14**

**College Football Picks: Saturday - 11-6-04**

#1 USC @ Oregon State	SU Pick: USC 41-24	ATS Pick: OSU +20
#2 Oklahoma @ #22 Texas A&M	SU Pick: Oklahoma 42-10	ATS Pick: OU -12
Minnesota @ #4 Wisconsin	SU Pick: Minnesota 18-12	ATS Pick: MN +6.5
#5 Georgia @ Kentucky	SU Pick: Georgia 34-3	ATS Pick: GA -24.5
Oregon @ #6 California	SU Pick: Cal 28-20	ATS Pick: OR +21
#19 Oklahoma St. @ #7 Texas	SU Pick: Texas 27-13	ATS Pick: TX -12.5
Colorado State @ #8 Utah	SU Pick: Utah 43-23	ATS Pick: CS +26.5
Clemson @ #10 Miami (FL)	SU Pick: Miami 35-16	ATS Pick: Mia -17
Notre Dame @ #11 Tennessee	SU Pick: Tennessee 31-17	ATS Pick: TN -7
Temple @ #12 West Virginia	SU Pick: West VA 49-7	ATS Pick: WV -28
Duke @ #13 Florida State	SU Pick: Florida St. 50-21	ATS Pick: Duke +31
Maryland @ #13* Virginia	SU Pick: Virginia 13-3	ATS Pick: MD +14
#18 Va. Tech @ North Carolina	SU Pick: Va. Tech 27-14	ATS Pick: VT -10
Purdue @ #20 Iowa	SU Pick: Iowa 24-23	ATS Pick: IA -1.5
Cincinnati @ #21 Southern Miss	SU Pick: So. Miss 33-22	ATS Pick: SM -5.5
Stanford @ #23 Arizona State	SU Pick: Arizona St. 36-19	ATS Pick: ASU -10
Rutgers @ #25 Boston College	SU Pick: BC 24-9	ATS Pick: BC -14
Northwestern @ Penn State	SU Pick: Penn St. 10-6	ATS Pick: PSU -3.5
Georgia Tech @ NC State	SU Pick: NC St. 28-24	ATS Pick: GT +8
Ohio St. @ Michigan St.	SU Pick: Ohio St. 17-16	ATS Pick: OSU +1
Pittsburgh @ Syracuse	SU Pick: Syracuse 40-27	ATS Pick: Cuse -4.5
Kansas St. @ Missouri	SU Pick: Mizzou 32-25	ATS Pick: MO -4.5
Air Force @ Army	SU Pick: Air Force 18-8	ATS Pick: AF -5
Wyoming @ UNLV	SU Pick: UNLV 20-15	ATS Pick: NLV -2.5
Florida Atlantic @ Troy	SU Pick: Troy 29-0	ATS Pick: Troy -13
Fresno State @ Rice	SU Pick: Fresno St. 24-12	ATS Pick: Fres -7.5

**LOCKS: Southern Miss -5.5 (*POTW*), Tennessee -7 (Over 44.5), Colorado St. +26.5, UNLV -2.5, Troy -13, Va. Tech -10, Oklahoma -12 and Over 47 ASU-Stanford**

**UPSET SPECIAL: Minnesota SU & +6.5**

**Inside the Games:**

**Louisville @ Memphis** - The Cards are 5-1 going to Memphis, whose 5-2, but lost to Cincinnati 49-10 on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Memphis running back DeAngelo Williams ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in the entire NCAA in rushing yards per game (134.4). **For Louisville it's been QB Stefan LeFors heading the attack as he has the nation's best quarterback rating at 178.3.** These two players are fantastic players and also have great playmakers surrounding them on both sides of the ball, particularly offensively. The Tigers are averaging 35.3 points per game and Bobby Petrino's gang has scorched everyone including Miami. They are scoring 42 a contest so my gut tells me there should be over 60 total points scored in this one. It's simple: Whichever offense can exploit the other's defense more will win. **I'm calling for the outright upset of Memphis as Williams runs wild and QB Danny Wimprine passes efficiently.**

**Marshall @ Akron** - Zips scare Marshall early, but remember this name - Chris Royal. **Right now the junior Royal is the Division 1-A leader in interceptions with six. Believe it or not, many thought he wasn't even going to start before the season began for the Thundering Herd on September 4<sup>th</sup> vs. Troy.** Since three losses to Troy, Ohio State and Georgia Head Coach Bob Pruett has gotten his team to re-focus and win five in a row. Look for Royal to try and get his hands on one of Charlie Frye's passes. Frye will be selected in the 2005 NFL Draft, but most of his teammates won't be picked.

**USC @ Oregon State** - Oregon State was one of the team's I thought could beat USC down the stretch last season. Mike Riley's Beavers put forth a nice effort, though came up very short 52-28. Are the Beavers a better team? No. Is USC better? Probably. So it should be similar to last year's game right? Not so fast my friend! Don't think I'm picking Oregon State. However, even without Steven Jackson running the ball, some key defenders and a decent kicking game, they are capable of making it closer than the experts project. If Derek Anderson does not turn the ball over and the secondary comprised of Aric Williams, Mitch Meeuwssen and Sabby Piscitelli (11Int.) disrupts USC's wide receivers, I can see Ore. St. playing the type of game Virginia Tech did against the Trojans. **Pick: USC moderately close - too much Reggie Bush and Dwayne Jarrett.**

**Oklahoma @ Texas A&M** - First off, how does Baylor upset Texas A&M? I mean the Aggies won six in a row after their 20 point loss to Utah, including wins over Clemson, Kansas St., Oklahoma St. and Colorado. Maybe Dennis Franchione's team was looking ahead to this showdown with OU. Well, now that the Aggies are 6-2 it doesn't carry the volume it would have if they were 7-1. **Although, two years ago a freshman by the name of Reggie McNeal quarterbacked Texas A&M to an upset win at home over Oklahoma 30-26.** Oh, by the way, that same McNeal guy is quarterbacking the team as a junior and has the young men from College Station 28<sup>th</sup> or better in the four main offensive statistical categories. **Still, you've got to step it up big time on defense to beat or even play with Oklahoma, who beat this team 77-0 last season!** Oklahoma State did everything they possibly could and fell short 38-35. Against one of the weakest pass defenses in America, Jason White should go off throwing the ball. Adrian Peterson, the fabulous true freshman running back that's already got over 1,000 yards, will become secondary this week. **Pick: Despite the fact Reggie McNeal has thrown for 1836Yds. and has a 9-1TD/Int. ratio, Oklahoma will win by at least two scores.**

**Minnesota @ Wisconsin - UPSET ALERT!** Minnesota traditionally plays poorly following their yearly tilt with Michigan. **2004 has been no exception as the Gophers have dropped two conference games to Michigan State and Indiana by a combined score of 81-38!** Glen Mason's team began 2003 6-0 before losing to Michigan by three points. This time they started off 5-0 and lost to Michigan by three points again. Minnesota is coming off an embarrassing road loss to Indiana so beware an angry Gophers bunch that runs the ball better than anyone else in the Big 10 (266.5 yards per game on the ground). Wisconsin's defense is one of the elite without question. **It's been one of the top three I've seen this season and they're only giving up 8.5PPG!** Something's gotta give right when you've got the 6<sup>th</sup> best run D' in Wisconsin facing College Football's 4<sup>th</sup> best rushing attack led by the duo of Laurence Maroney and Marion Barber III? Maybe. Bryan Cuptio has a pretty strong arm so don't be stunned to watch Mason air it out to top receiving target Jared Ellerson multiple times. **Pick: Minnesota in an upset - The Gophers o-line centered by junior Greg Eslinger opens up nice holes for the Minnesota tailbacks therefore allowing them to tear into the teeth of the Badgers D'.**



**Minnesota RB Laurence Maroney (shown pictured) and teammate Marion Barber III together have rushed for 1911 yards already. Could it be the first Gopher tailbacks to each rush for over 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons? I'll get back to you on that one a little bit later on in the year.**

**Clemson @ Miami (FL) -** Larry Coker lost his first ever game as a member of the ACC. Nobody and I mean NOBODY thought it would come on the road in North Carolina. How did they lose? Well, normally people put the blame on the QB. Brock Berlin has struggled in the first half of games and I underline first half because he's been brilliant throughout the year in quarters 3&4. What killed the Canes was running the football. Tyrone Moss and Frank Gore couldn't set the temp for them, while UNC senior Chad Scott had the game of his life. Clemson's rushing attack isn't something to write

home about (although it has improved slightly during the course of the year). QB Charlie Whitehurst has been hot and cold, which is totally unexpected for arguably the ACC's second best passer last season only behind Philip Rivers. I think the Canes secondary shows up, the defense uses aggression to its advantage and Devin Hester makes Clemson pay on special teams. **Pick: Miami convincingly.**

**Oklahoma State @ Texas** - Vernand Morency is the best kept secret in the NCAA. He's run the ball exceptionally and QB Donovan Woods is starting to turn the corner. What kept the Cowboys from knocking off undefeated Oklahoma was Adrian Peterson. Peterson ran for over 200 yards for the second time this season. The other time he did it was against Texas, who has an outstanding tailback by the name of Cedric Benson. Texas will run, run and run some more with Benson. It could open up the play action passing late with Vince Young. The Longhorns defense has the talent to concentrate on shutting down the run, too. Derrick Johnson's an All-American linebacker and he will meet Morency on many occasions. **Pick: Texas allows just 3.3 YPC and the Cowboys give up over four. Longhorns by 14.**

**Extra Points:**

Virginia Tech @ North Carolina - Letdown time for UNC after gargantuan upset.

Maryland @ Virginia - Short Maryland joyride ends facing strong Cavs defense.

Pittsburgh @ Syracuse - Gotta go with the Orange in the Carrier Dome.

Kansas St. @ Missouri - Seriously, does anyone want to win the Big 12 North?

Florida @ Vanderbilt - Nice knowing ya' Steve - Spurrier says no thanks to Florida.

Fresno St. @ Rice - Solid defense contains triple-option attack by the cereal.

San Diego St. @ BYU - Bowl implications in the Mountain West.

Arkansas @ South Carolina - Houston Nutt's team always put up a tough fight.

Northwestern @ Penn St. - If Joe Pa can't win this one they're really in trouble.

Ohio St. @ Michigan St. - Can Buckeyes defense shut down D.Cobb and D.Stanton?

Oregon @ California - Cal has shutout their last two opponents so bad news for Oregon.

Utah @ Colorado St. - Since 1995 each game won was by eight points or less!