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PART I: COLLEGE TEAM TRENDS BY CONFERENCE

by Bruce Marshall, Goldsheet.com Editor

We've been hearing the same lament from countless college basketball followers for many years. "Why didn't I notice that team was covering the spread in every game?" An oversight which, given the number of teams that are on the college hoops radar screen, can happen frequently. Following several hundred teams at a time is not easy.

Indeed, we recall the days when the big board in college hoops included fewer than half of the games currently posted on a nightly basis. Many of the current leagues didn't even exist in the mid '80s, and it took a long while for certain leagues (such as the West Coast Conference) to be included in the regular rotation of games. And that was before the "added leagues" such as Big Sky, Metro-Atlantic, Summit, and Ohio Valley began to regularly appear as well.

It was in fact easier to uncover spread trends in those days, but as it was 20, 30, or 40 years ago, identifying just a handful of trends and taking advantage of them before they expire can mean the difference between a winning and losing season. And we have always noted that the conference season is the best time to really begin to search for these handicapping nuggets. Many team streaks, whether winning or losing, home or away, dog or favorite, as well as "overs" and "unders" inevitably tend to endure and often become more pronounced as the season progresses.

With that in mind, we're going to devote space in this current issue as well as our next edition (available Monday, January 28) to team trends by conference. We will begin with the review of ten conferences for this issue; we proceed alphabetically, beginning with the Atlantic Coast Conference thru the Horizon League. In the next issue, we'll pick up with the Ivy League. Though not every entry has developed a trend that merits review, many teams in fact do have some pointspread or "totals" angle worth noting; we'll list the ones that have caught our eyes. *All pointspread and "totals" trends include results thru Wednesday, January 23.*

ATLANTIC COAST: Boston College...The Eagles have covered six of their last seven after their midweek game vs. Maryland; BC is also "over" 7-2 its last nine. **Clemson...**The Tigers could be in the early stage of something good, covering their last three games. Brad Brownell's tempo-controlling preference has also resulted in four straight Clemson "unders" as well. **Georgia Tech...**After Wednesday's loss to North Carolina, the Yellow Jackets have dropped their last six vs. the spread. Perhaps we were wise after all to wonder if the supposed improvements of Brian Gregory's team in pre-league play were due to a relatively-soft non-ACC slate. **Maryland...**The Terps have hit a few high notes in recent weeks (such as the home win over NC State) but have still dropped their last five against the spread. **North Carolina...**Are the Tar Heels finally stirring? That's three wins and covers in a row for Roy Williams' Chapel Hill bunch after Wednesday's home romp past aforementioned Georgia Tech. UNC is also "under" 5-1 its last six games. **North Carolina State...**Look out for some fraying around the edges with the erratic Wolfpack, who have lost 2 of their last 3 outright while failing to cover the number in each of those games. NCS is also a poor 1-6 its last seven as chalk after the midweek loss down Tobacco Road at underdog Wake Forest. Rumors of some internal discord involving players and HC Mark Gottfried? **Virginia...**Tony Bennett's Cavs have offered good spread value all season, standing 9-3 vs. the line their last 12 on the board. **Virginia Tech...**It's gone a bit pear-shaped lately for the Hokies, whose quick start under new HC James Johnson seems a long time ago; VPI has covered just one of its last eight (1-6-1) overall. **Wake Forest...**Don't look now, but the Demon Deacons have covered 8 of their last 9 after the midweek upset over NC State at Winston-Salem.

ATLANTIC 10: Butler...Brad Stevens' Bulldogs lost a tough one on Wednesday at La Salle but have still covered their last five. **Duquesne...**The bottom might be falling out for the Iron Dukes, who have dropped seven spread decisions in a row. **Fordham...**While acknowledging the midweek 45-point smashing the Rams absorbed at Dayton, also note that Fordham is unbeaten vs. the line (3-0-1) at its quaint Rose Hill Gym in The Bronx. **George**



Much to the chagrin of Yellow Jacket fans, Georgia Tech has recorded six straight pointspread losses.

Washington...Mike Lonergan's Colonials have quietly offered superb spread value, covering 10 of their last 12 on the board. **La Salle...**Even after the Wednesday win over Butler, John Giannini's Explorers have still covered only 1 of their last 7 games. **UMass...**The Minutemen have covered just 2 of their last 7 on the board. They're also "under" 5-2 in their last seven. **Richmond...**Aracnophobia indeed for backers of the Spiders, who have covered just 3 of their last 15 on the board. **Saint Louis...**The Bills are "under" 5-2 in their last seven games. **Saint Joseph's...**After the midweek loss to St. Bona, Phil Martelli's Hawks have dropped their last four spread decisions at home. **St. Bonaventure...**Note the Bonnies' 9-2 "over" mark their last 11 games. **Temple...**The Owls, who didn't come close to covering a hefty number at home vs. Big Five rival Penn at midweek, are just 4-8 their last 12 as chalk and a mere 2-6 vs. the line at home this term.

BIG EAST: Cincinnati...The Bearcats have been trending "under" (5-1 last 6) lately. They're also 6-1 vs. the line their last seven away from Fifth Third Arena. **DePaul...**The Blue Demons have covered just 2 of their last 7 while also going "over" in 7 of their last 9. **Georgetown...**The Hoyas reminded us on Monday at Notre Dame that they can be worth a look as a dog; they're 3-1 as the "short" this season, and also "under" their last three on the road. **Louisville...**Keep an eye on the Cards, who have not only failed to cover, but lost outright their last two after ascending to the top of the polls and recording a 6-2-1 spread mark their nine preceding games. **Notre Dame...**The Irish have been in a funk, dropping their last four vs. the number. Notre Dame is also "under" in its last five games. **Pittsburgh...**Note "overs" in 6 of the Panthers' last seven games. Pitt has also failed to cover its last three at home. **Providence...**Don't shortchange Ed Cooley's Friars, who have covered 4 of their last 5. Providence is also "over" 9-1-1 its last 11. **Rutgers...**No place like the road in Scarlet Knight games, as the visiting team has covered in five straight. Mike Rice's team is also "under" 6-2 its last 8. **Seton Hall...**The Pirates have covered just one of their last five (1-3-1) as chalk. They're also "under" 4-

continued on next page

1 their last five. **South Florida...**We note "overs" in the Bulls last two games because it contrasts with the "unders" in their preceding five games. **St. John's...**Steve Lavin's Red Storm is "under" its last six games, while also covering 4 of its last 5 as a dog. **Syracuse...**Jim Boeheim is "under" 7-4 in his last 11 games. **Villanova...**Quietly, Jay Wright's Nova has covered 9 of its last 12 games.

BIG SKY: Eastern Washington...The Eagles have dropped 8 of their last 10 vs. the line. They're also "under" in five straight and 9 of 11. **Idaho State...**With "totals" posted so low because the Bengals have so little offense, ISU has nonetheless gone "over" in 5 of its last 7. The Bengals also haven't covered their last three as chalk (0-2-1). **Montana...**The Grizzlies have won their last 8 SU, roughly coinciding with the return to action of star G Will Cherry. Wayne Tinkle's team is also "over" in 4 straight and 5 of its last 6. **Montana State...**The Bobcats have covered 5 of their last 7 on the road. **North Dakota...**The Fighting Sioux are mildly surging, covering 5 of their last 7. UND is also "over" 9-3 its last 12. **Northern Arizona...**The Lumberjacks, who absorbed some wicked beatings before New Year's, are showing mild improvement for first-year HC Jack Murphy, covering their last three (as an underdog in each). **Northern Colorado...**While the Bears are only 3-11 vs. the line this season, they have covered their last two outings. **Portland State...**The Vikings have a lot going on; 0-3 their last 3 overall, 2-5 their last 7 away, but 4-1 their last 5 at home in quaint Stott Gym. **Sacramento State...**The Hornets are "under" 7-2 their last 9; Sac State has also recently snapped an extended spread losing streak, but has still covered just 2 of its last 10 overall (2-6-2). **Southern Utah...**The Thunderbirds have covered 5 of their last 7. **Weber State...**It's been "overs" in 5 of the last 7 for the Wildcats.

BIG TEN: Illinois...Though the Illini won on Tuesday at Nebraska, they're only 2-7 vs. the spread in their last 9 games. **Indiana...**The highly-ranked, "highly-priced" Hoosiers have covered just 1 of their last 6 games; they're also "under" 4 of their last 5. **Iowa...**Fran McCaffery's Hawkeyes are providing good value, covering 9 of their last 11 games. They're also "under" in 6 of their last 8 outings. **Michigan...**The high-powered Wolverines are "over" in 6 of their last 8. **Nebraska...**Getting benefit from some inflated numbers, the Cornhuskers have covered their last three away from Lincoln. **Northwestern...**Just when the Wildcats looked ready to drop off of the map, they've now covered three in a row for HC Bill Carmody, with outright wins as a dog vs. Illinois and Minnesota. They're also "under" four straight. **Ohio State...**Thad Matta's Buckeyes are "under" 8-1 their last 9. **Purdue...**Providing decent value lately, the Boilermakers have covered their last 3. Matt Painter's team is also "over" 6-2-1 its last 9. **Wisconsin...**No surprise that the Badgers are "under" 8-3 their last 11 for the pride of Chester, PA, HC Bo Ryan.

BIG 12: Baylor...The Bears are "under" four straight. **Kansas...**Bill Self's Jayhawks are "under" their last 4, and 6 of their last 7. **Kansas State...**Bruce Weber's Wildcats have covered just one of their last five (1-3-1 away). **Oklahoma State...**The Cowboys are 7-2 vs. the line their last nine, but note they've failed to cover their last two. **Texas...**Lots going on with the Longhorns; 6-1 their last seven as an underdog, but 0-5 SU their last five. **TCU...**Trent Johnson's slow-paced Horned Frogs are "under" 7-3 their last ten. **Texas Tech...**Red Raiders "under" 8-1 their last nine after another low-scoring game at midweek vs. Iowa State. **West Virginia...**The Mounties' midweek win over TCU was their first cover as chalk after six straight losses in role.

BIG WEST: Cal Poly...Mustangs "over" 6-1 their last 7 while also covering 5 of their last 6. **Cal State Fullerton...**Slipping Titans no covers in their last three, also "over" 5-1 their last six. **Hawaii...**Warriors have covered their first three on the mainland this season, but have dropped 6 of their last 9 vs. the line in Honolulu. **Long Beach State...**Ascending 49ers now 4-1 vs. line last 5. **Cal State Northridge...**Bobby Braswell's Matadors have dropped six straight vs. the number; remember, CSN had at one time covered seven straight early in the season. **Pacific...**Bob Thomason's Tigers have offered good value all season, covering 5 of their last 6 and 10 of 14 overall. **UCSB...**Bob Williams' Gauchos are "over" 5-1 their last six. **UC Davis...**It's been best to shade the road team in games involving Kimberly Guilfoyle's alma mater UCD, as the visitor has covered in five straight Aggie games. **UC Irvine...**Anteaters "over" 5-1 their last six. **UC Riverside...**The Highlanders are "over" their last four games.

COLONIAL: Delaware...Blue Hens "over" 7-2 their last nine. **Drexel...**Poor spread value all season, covering just 4 of 18 after another spread loser (though SU win) at midweek vs. Hofstra. The Dragons had earlier dropped 8 straight vs. the number. **George Mason...**Paul Hewitt's Patriots have covered 4 of their last 5 away from Fairfax. **Georgia State...**On the upswing, the Panthers have covered their last four. Ron Hunter's team is also "over" 8-3 its last 11. **Hofstra...**Remarkable spread turnaround for Mo Cassara's suspension-depleted Pride, which has covered seven in row; those last seven are all "under" as well. **James Madison...**How about eight straight "unders" for the Dukes after their Wednesday win over Delaware? **Towson...**The Tigers have cooled a bit with SU and spread losses their last two; Pat Skerry's improved team had covered 8 of its previous 10. **William & Mary...**Snakebit Tribe 1-6 vs. line last 7, but that "W" was in most-recent game, a double-OT loss on Wednesday vs. Northeastern. W&M also "over" 7-3 last 10.

CONFERENCE USA: East Carolina...The Pirates have covered 4 of their last 5. **Houston...**Fade the Cougars, with no covers in four straight after Wednesday's humbling loss vs. Tulsa. UH also "over" 5-1 last 6. **Marshall...**A



Ohio State's defense has played a major role as the "under" is 8-1 in last 9 Buckeye games.

spread disaster this season even before the 102-46 (!) wipeout loss on Wednesday inflicted by Southern Miss; Herd now 2-11-1 vs. line this season. Marshall also "over" 4-1 last five. **Memphis...**Road rage of a different sort involving Josh Pastner's Tigers; the visiting team has covered nine straight Memphis games, with the Tigers no covers their last six at FedEx Forum. **Rice...**Limited Owls just 1-4 vs. line last five; Ben Braun's team also "over" 4-1 last 5. **SMU...**Early-season value has disappeared from Larry Brown's Mustangs, who have covered just 4 of their last 11 overall and 1 of their last 6 on road. **Southern Miss...**Golden Eagles 6-1 vs. line last seven. **UTEP...**After a slow start, Tim Floyd's Miners have covered 8 of their last 9, including their last six home games at the Haskins Center. **Tulsa...**Don't look now, but Danny Manning's Golden Hurricane has covered 6 of its last 7. **UAB...**The Blazers have offered poor value all season; no covers last 4 and just 4-12 vs. line overall.

HORIZON: Cleveland State...Vikings no covers their last 3, or 9 of last 11 after midweek loss to Loyola-Chicago; Gary Waters' side has also dropped 7 straight vs. number on road. **Detroit...**Ray McCallum's Titans have a couple of blowout wins in Horizon play, but overall are just 2-8-1 as chalk; they are 4-1 as dog, however. **Green Bay...**Fighting Phoenix have covered 5 of last 6 at home in the Resch Center, and are "under" 10-3 this season. **UIC...**Howard Moore's Flames are 12-6 vs. the line this season, but note their early 8-game cover streak. UIC has covered 6 of last 7 at home, but dropped corresponding 5 of last 6 vs. spread away. **Loyola-Chicago...**Ramblers have been streaky, with 4-game cover streak followed by 4-game losing streak vs. line prior to Wednesday's win at Cleveland State. **Milwaukee...**Rob Jeter's Panthers are 6-11-1 vs. line this season; they're also "under" 7-3 their last ten. **Valparaiso...**Bryce Drew's Crusaders have covered 5 of their last 6, and 7 of their last 9 after Wednesday's win over Green Bay; they're also "over" their last five. **Wright State...**Even after Wednesday's loss at Youngstown, the Raiders are 8-2 vs. the line their last ten (and six straight covers at home in the Nutter Center). **Youngstown State...**Penguins just 3-8-1 last 11 on board despite Wednesday's win over Wright State.

Next issue: Part II College team Trends By Conference

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NBA DAY-BY-DAY FORECAST - JANUARY 25-28

★★★KEY RELEASES★★★

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

WASHINGTON 104 - Minnesota 89—These two teams have been polar opposites against the points lately, as Minny's injuries have caught up with it in 3-11 spread run since Christmas Day. Washington is 12-2 vs. the number since losing to Cleveland Dec. 26. The Wizards have been buoyed by the development of G Bradley Beal (3rd pick in the draft), who leads the team in scoring over the last 12 games, and also by the return to action of PG John Wall (14 ppg, 7 apg in 25 mpg off the bench in 7 games this month). With C Nikola Pekovic out with a thigh injury, Minny has been forced to rely on F Andrei Kirilenko and G Luke Ridnour for scoring. *Not good.* Washington big men Emeka Okafor and Nene should dominate boards with Timberwolf counterparts Kevin Love definitely out and Pekovic very questionable. 11-Min -2' 93-72 (196)

ATLANTA 98 - Boston 90—Boston had lost 4 in a row SU and against the number prior to hosting New York in a national TV game last night. Doc Rivers' Celtics are showing their age, with a sub-.500 record at the halfway point in the season and the worst spread mark in the league. Atlanta snapped out of its extended slump after humiliating 58-point effort at Chicago Jan. 14, covering 4 of next 5, but injuries are dogging Larry Drew's Hawks, with C Al Horford's hamstring problem the latest in a list of bad breaks (lost G Lou Williams for the season). However, PG Devin Harris should be ready to play after recovering from a sprained ankle, and Hawks have covered 3 of last 4 at Philips Arena after starting the season 3-10 vs. the number in first 13 at home. Harris' presence could be instrumental, as he missed Jan. 5 loss against Boston, when Celt PG Rajon Rondo recorded a triple-double. *Celts 6-13 vs. the number on the road this season.* 12-Bos +5 89-81 (187); 11-Bos +2 79-76 (182), BOS -2' 88-86 (OT-180), ATL -10' 97-92 (180), ATL -1' 83-74 (179), Bos +4 87-80 (172), BOS -8 90-84 (OT-173), BOS -6 101-79 (172), ATL -1' 87-86 (174), BOS -6' 83-80 (174)

MIAMI 104 - Detroit 87—Detroit playing with some life the last month, winning 9 of 14 SU & vs. the points since Dec. 20. Included in that upturn in fortune was a win against Miami in Detroit, when the Piston bench scored 64 points led by G Will Bynum's 25 (and 10 assists!). LeBron James & Chris Bosh combined for 63 in that game, but Heat G Dwyane Wade was serving a suspension and didn't play. Prior to that upset, Detroit had lost 12 of previous 13 against the Heat. Wade has now scored 62 pts. in his last 2 games despite suffering from a sore toe, so look for a big game from him in revenge match against Detroit. 12-DET +6 109-99 (189); 11-Mia -8' 101-98 (188), Mia -9 88-73 (191), MIA -11' 98-75 (189)

Milwaukee 98 - CLEVELAND 92—Milwaukee continues to show improvement under interim HC Jim Boylan, logging a 6-2 SU & spread mark since firing of Scott Skiles. Cleveland improving somewhat with PG Kyrie Irving starting to flex his muscles (26 ppg, 48% in his last 10 games), but Cavs are just 5-12 SU & vs. the number at Quicken Loans Arena this season. Cleveland upset the Bucks in Milwaukee back on Dec. 22, snapping a 9-game series losing streak. Milwaukee has won last 4 in Cleveland SU and covered 9 of last 12 visits, so look for Brandon Jennings to make amends for his horrific 3 of 13 shooting in previous meeting against the Cavs. *Bucks 13-7 vs. the number on the road this season.* 12-MIL -7 105-102 (197), Mil -2' 90-86 (196), Cle +8 94-82 (196); 11-Mil -1 113-112 (OT-193), MIL -6 115-105 (205), Mil -5 121-84 (205), MIL -11' 107-98 (204)

Brooklyn 90 - MEMPHIS 89—Points could be worth taking with Brooklyn side that has benefited from coaching change from Avery Johnson to P.J. Carlesimo. The Nets are 12-2 SU and have covered 7 of last 9 under Carlesimo, and G Joe Johnson, in particular, has perked up under the new coach. Johnson is scoring 20 ppg & shooting 45% in January, a sharp increase over pre-P.J. numbers. Memphis has played fairly well at the FedEx Forum this season (16-6 SU, 13-9 vs. the number), but the Grizzlies have covered just 4 of last 9 at home and are scoring just 85 ppg in their last 7 games. Memphis is coming off a very satisfying win against the Lakers (nothing like kicking Kobe while he's down to soothe the ego), and the Nets have held 6 of last 8 foes below 90 points. 11-Mem -3' 105-100 (187)

★★★NEW ORLEANS 107 - Houston 93—The home team has had an edge in this series, as New Orleans is 5-1 SU and against the number last 6 hosting Houston. The latest Hornet success against the Rockets came Jan. 9, when Houston scored just 79 points and committed 22 turnovers. That loss began a downward spiral for the Rockets that's seen them lose 8 of last 9 SU and 9 of 9 against the points. The Rocket offense has slipped during the last few weeks, as Kevin McHale's team has scored just 94 ppg in the last 9 games, as leading scorer James Harden is shooting just 29% in his last 5 games. Harden has enjoyed success this season against N.O., scoring 29 ppg and shooting 49%, but he's not in form right now, and the Hornet/Pelicans have been invigorated by improving play of PG Greivis Vasquez (19 ppg, 11 apg vs. Houston this season) and return to action of G Eric Gordon (17 ppg), winning 8 of 12 with Gordon available. *Go Pelicans!!* 12-HOU -6' 100-96 (186), HOU -9' 104-92 (203), NO +2' 88-79 (201); 11-HOU -10 90-88 (OT-184), NO +5' 105-99 (OT-187), HOU -5' 84-77 (189)

NEW ORLEANS by 14 over Houston (Friday, January 25)
GOLDEN STATE by 10 over Chicago (Friday, January 25)
DENVER by 20 over Sacramento (Saturday, January 26)
NEW ORLEANS by 3 over Memphis (Sunday, January 25)

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San Antonio 112 - DALLAS 101—Dallas has been a relatively easy target for San Antonio the last few seasons, as the Spurs have covered 8 of last 9 against the Mavs. Dallas has been hot lately, however, covering 7 straight and won 5 of last 6 SU, including covers against the Clippers, Memphis & OKC. It's always a bit dicey going with San Antonio, as it's never written in concrete who will be on the floor for the Spurs on any given night (Tim Duncan will be out again with a sore knee; G Manu Ginobili is just easing back into action due to a hamstring injury). Still, Spurs scored 120 ppg & shot 53% in first two against Dallas this season, swamping the Mavs by 38 & 25-point margins. Look for more of same, as HC Gregg Popovich will have a chance to rest players tomorrow night at home against Phoenix. 12-SAN -11 129-91 (206), San -6 111-86 (207); 11-SAN -2 93-71 (189), DAL -5' 101-100 (OT-187), DAL -3 106-99 (198), SAN -4 104-87 (200) CABLE TV—ESPN

★★★Golden State 96 - CHICAGO 86—Golden State has stepped up a level lately, beating OKC and the Clippers in last 2 games, as well as covering at San Antonio in winning 4 straight against the number. Warriors are very good when G Stephen Curry and F David Lee's ankles are sound, and they both appear to be healthy right now. Curry has made 47% of his treys in his last 8 games, and Lee (20 ppg, 11 rpg this season) is having an all-star year. Chicago's points spread failures at United Center are well chronicled, as the Bulls have covered just 25% of their games at home. Chicago has scored just 88 ppg in its last 5 home games, all of which went under the total. Bull F Luol Deng has missed the last 3 games with a hamstring injury, and C Joakim Noah is shooting just 38% in his last 11 games, so have to look at the Warriors and the "under" in this game. 11-GS +6' 99-91 (192)

Oklahoma City 117 - SACRAMENTO 103—Oklahoma City has cruised to a 13-2 SU mark in last 15 meetings with Sacramento, but the Kings have split the last 12 vs. the Thunder against the points and are 5-4 vs. the spread last 9 at home in the series. OKC maintaining the best record in the league, but the Thunder have slowed down against the points, posting a 12-12 mark after starting the season 13-5-1 vs. the number. That being said, Thunder star F Kevin Durant seems to be picking up steam, scoring 35 ppg and shooting 53% in his last 10 games, and PG Russell Westbrook has likewise increased production, contributing 26 ppg in January. Sacto's surge around the holidays is now just a memory, as the Kings have covered just 1 of their last 10 games, yielding 108 ppg in that run. 12-OKC -13 113-103 (204); 11-SAC +6' 106-101 (203), OKC -13' 115-89 (213), Okc -10 103-92 (214), OKC -10 118-110 (210)

Utah 101 - LA LAKERS 96—Utah has given the Lakers fits lately, with the Jazz winning and covering the last 4 regular-season meetings as well as a pair of preseason games along the way. Utah scored 106 ppg and shot 49.4% as a team against L.A. in first two meetings this season, with 7 Jazz players averaging double digits against the Lakers' 26th-ranked defense. HC Mike D'Antoni's defense isn't getting any better, as L.A. ranks 28th in points allowed over its last 10 games. Lakers resorted to a team meeting to clear the air prior to visiting Memphis on Wednesday and promptly fell flat on their faces and lost their 4th straight. The bottom line is the team is showing no signs of making a sudden transition, D'Antoni is closer to clueless than he is to genius, and it's looking like Dwight Howard will leave the team either via trade or free agency. *Back to the drawing board, Lakers.* 12-UTAH -3 95-86 (197), Utah +7 117-110 (208); 11-LA -5 96-71 (187), La -2 90-87 (OT-184), UTAH -2 96-87 (187), Utah +11 103-99 (193)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

TORONTO 94 - Cleveland 84—Cleveland hosted Milwaukee last night, but Cavs are 5-3 on the road in the second night of back-to-back games. Cleveland has plenty of young legs, as none of the core of PG Kyrie Irving, G Dion Waiters and PF Tristan Thompson is over 21 years old. Cavs are 6-3-1 vs. the number in their last 10 on the road, but must respect Toronto side that's 12-4 against the number last 16 at the Air Canada Centre. The Raptors are 6-2 SU & vs. the number last 8 meetings with Cleveland, although the Cavs are 2-2 at Toronto since LeBron James left the team. Toronto is scoring 101 ppg & shooting 47% in January, with 6 players scoring in double digits, even though Alan Anderson & DeMar DeRozan have been in shooting slumps. *Totals note: This series is 13-1 "under" last 14 in Toronto!* 12-Tor +4' 113-99 (189); 11-Tor +2 104-96 (195), TOR -5 92-77 (191), Tor +4 96-88 (194), Cle +7' 84-80 (188)

NBA FORECAST

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New York 101 - PHILADELPHIA 95—Even before Philly's troubles this season, New York has dominated the Sixers, covering 10 of last 12 in the series. The most recent Knick victories came early this campaign in a pair of easy wins in back-to-back games on Nov. 4 & 5. Sixer Jrue Holiday and Knick F Carmelo Anthony each had 27 pts. in the first meeting, when the game was decided by the reserves, as New York's bench outscored Philly's by 15 pts. thanks to 20 from J.R. Smith. The Knick backups held an identical 15-point edge the next day, again led by Smith (17 pts.). Injured Knick PG Ray Felton has been practicing, and he's targeted this game for his return. Although New York is just 4-5 SU since return of Amar'e Stoudemire, the last 3 of those losses came against teams playing .600 or better ball. 12-NY -3' 100-84 (187), NY +2' 110-88 (184); 11-NY -4 85-79 (196), Phi +2' 106-94 (194), NY +4' 82-79 (191)

WASHINGTON 97 - Chicago 92—Both of these teams played at home last night, Washington against Minnesota and Chicago facing Golden State. The red-hot Wizards have covered 9 of 11 in 2nd of back-to-back games and were riding an 8-game pointspread winning streak into Friday's match with the Timberwolves. Washington has covered 4 straight at the Verizon Center, beating Orlando, Atlanta and OKC SU in the last 3 of those. Bull F Luol Deng is very iffy with a strained hamstring, which obviously is a problem for Chicago. In the first meeting this season, neither team shot well, but the Wizards didn't have PG John Wall, F Trevor Ariza, G Jordan Crawford or G A.J. Price available. Those players are contributing 40 ppg, 15 apg & 11 rpg in January. 12-CHI -10' 87-77 (181); 11-CHI -12 78-64 (181), Chi -9 98-88 (190), Was +12' 87-84 (188) TV—NBA NETWORK

CHARLOTTE 98 - Minnesota 94—Neither of these teams showing much life, but Charlotte's record at home is bordering on historically poor. The Bobcats have dropped 16 in a row at Time Warner Cable Arena, and they're just 4-13 vs. the number last 17 at the "Cable Box." Minny slumping badly over the last month, logging a 3-11 spread mark last 14 (1-6 on the road) since Christmas, and Timberwolves are coming off a game last night in Washington. Minny is just 1-9 SU on the road, and injuries have robbed Timberwolves of a good amount of production. Bobcat G Kemba Walker hit a last-second shot to give Charlotte a win in Minnesota back on Nov. 14. Minny F Kevin Love & C Nikola Pekovic didn't play that night, and that could be the case again, as Love is through for a while. If Pekovic can't go, Bobcats have a shot at ending home losing streak. 12-Cha +7' 89-87 (183); 11-MIN -10' 102-90 (194), Min -5' 88-83 (201)

Brooklyn 102 - HOUSTON 97—Both teams played last night, and entering those games, they were headed in opposite directions. Brooklyn was 10-1 SU & 8-3 vs. the points last 11 prior to visiting Memphis, while Houston had dropped 9 straight spread decisions, winning just 1 of those SU before visiting New Orleans. Really don't need to go much beyond those numbers in analyzing this matchup, as have to give edge at point guard and center to the Nets. Neither team has fared well in 2nd night of back-to-back games, as Houston is 4-9 against the number, and Brooklyn 3-7 when untested. Nets "Carlesimo bump" should continue against slumping Rockets. 11-Hou -6' 112-106 (191)

Golden St. 104 - MILWAUKEE 94—Wonder if injured Warrior C Andrew Bogut will make the trip back to his old stomping grounds and show the Warriors where they can find the "Shielas" after the game in Milwaukee? Bogut won't play (although his return is likely to come before the All-Star Game), but HC Mark Jackson's team hasn't missed him much, as the Warriors have pulled to within shouting distance of the Clippers in the Pacific and have the 5th-best record in the West. Milwaukee enjoying a coaching-change bump with the firing of Scott Skiles, winning and covering 6 of first 8 under Jim Boylan. However, Bucks just 1-5 as a home dog this season, while the Warriors are 34-19 against the points on the road the last 1+ years. Both teams played last night, and Milwaukee is 3-13 against the points at home, while G.S. is 14-4 on the road in 2nd of back-to-back games the last 1+ seasons. 11-Mil -1' 120-98 (209)

SAN ANTONIO 104 - Phoenix 90—San Antonio played last night in Dallas, and HC Gregg Popovich has been known to pull punches by holding out marginally injured players to ease the grind. That being said, the Spurs have dominated the Suns, winning 7 of last 8 SU, covering all 4 last season. Still, the Suns have hung in on the road, covering 8 of last 12 away from home and are 6-2 vs. the number last 8 getting more than 8 points. Phoenix fired HC Alvin Gentry and replaced him with Lindsay Hunter after losing to Milwaukee on Jan. 17, and the Suns responded by winning at Sacramento thanks to 25 King turnovers and 19 pts. off the bench from Michael Beasley. Not sure Phoenix can sustain that effort, and San Antonio certainly isn't Sacramento. 11-SAN -8' 102-91 (197), San -1' 107-100 (203), SAN -9 105-91 (208), San +3 110-106 (206)

★★★**DENVER 123 - Sacramento 103**—While on occasion we note a spark of life from Sacto, for the most part there is not a lot of evidence that Kings are ready to make any sort of a sustained move even to the fringes of Western Conference playoff contention. Sacto entered last Friday's game vs. Thunder having dropped 9 of its last 10 vs. the number, and with pending distractions related to possible franchise sale and relocation to Seattle (*we'll save our slings and arrows directed at the Maloofs for another time*), we're not holding our breath to see Kings rally. Denver has crushed Sacto in three of four meetings since last season, including 122-97 romp at Sleep Train on Dec. 16 when Nuggets hit 54% from floor. Note lots of "overs" both ways lately...Denver 7-2 last nine and Kings 12-5 last 17, both thru Jan. 24. 12-Den -4' 122-97 (204); 11-DEN -11' 110-83 (208), Den -6' 122-93 (205), DEN -9' 119-116 (OT-212)

UTAH 91 - Indiana 83—Indiana mostly staying afloat despite tough scheduling stretch (in midst of second extended multi-game road trip in two weeks) and ongoing absence of high-scoring F Danny Granger. Pacer defense allowing an NBA-low 89.1 ppg is keeping Frank Vogel's team in the hunt most nights. But not every night, and now Indy must face a Jazz side that has made quite a nice fortress out of EnergySolutions Arena, covering 12 of first 18 at home. Jazz also in payback mode after absorbing 104-84 beating at Bankers Life Fieldhouse back on Dec. 19 when Utah was caught in that Indy defensive vise grip, shooting only 38% from floor and recording only 8 points in 2nd Q when the game got away from Ty Corbin's side. Payback worth a look in rematch. Also note "unders" in 13 of last 16 Pacers games. 12-IND -3' 104-84 (187); 11-IND -9 104-99 (192) TV—NBA NETWORK

LA Clippers 102 - PORTLAND 93—Clippers hitting a few speed bumps in the last week with losses to Warriors and Thunder, and Chris Paul's recent knee injury remains a short-term concern. But tonight's opponent Portland has been a hard sell in recent weeks, as Blazers have often had the look of a tired team. Which is an observation shared by many NBA onlookers who believe Portland's lack of quality depth is causing HC Terry Stotts to pile too many minutes upon the starters, who often looked fatigued in recent weeks when Blazers were on a 6-game SU losing streak that was only broken last Wednesday vs. Pacers. In earlier meeting at Rose Garden on Nov. 8, Clips dominated glass by 56-41 count and used their bench strength (specifically super sub Jamal Crawford and his 25 points) to help shoot 53% from floor and trigger easy 103-90 Clips win. Not much evidence in recent weeks that Blazers are ready to reverse that result. 12-La -1 103-90 (201); 11-LA -3' 93-88 (200), POR -5' 105-97 (196), La -2 74-71 (189), LA -9 98-97 (187)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Day Games

Miami 103 - BOSTON 90—At this time, Miami looks a lot closer to the team that survived a 7-game playoff series than the Boston side which made Heat sweat in East Finals last spring. Celtics (14-15 vs. line thru Jan. 23) continuing to flounder and prompting some angry comments from HC Doc Rivers, who hinted at drastic lineup changes in wake of recent 4-game SU and spread losing streak (thru Jan. 23) that also has the Beantown rumor mill whirring in anticipation of what GM Danny Ainge might (or might not) do at the trade deadline. But unless Ainge finds some frontline reinforcements to take some pressure off of an aging Kevin Garnett, or Paul Pierce (32.4% FGs his last five games thru Jan. 23) quickly rediscovers his shooting eye, Boston in trouble like it was in 120-107 opening-night loss at AmericanAirlines Arena. Especially with Heat likely focused and having ended last road trip (at Golden State & Lakers) with a bang. 12-MIA -6' 120-107 (187); 11-MIA -10 115-107 (187), BOS +4 91-72 (186), Bos +7' 115-107 (184), BOS -7 78-66 (181), MIA -8 93-79 (178), MIA -7' 115-111 (OT-178), BOS -2' 101-91 (180), BOS +1' 93-91 (OT-180), Bos +8 94-90 (180), MIA -2 98-79 (180), MIA -8 101-88 (179) TV—ABC

Oklahoma City 110 - LA LAKERS 95—To paraphrase the great Henny Youngman, "Take the Lakers...please!" Lake Show about to disappear into the abyss as the losses mount (four straight, and ten of last twelve thru Jan. 24) and no improvement in sight, especially with Dwight Howard having reinjured his shoulder at Memphis on Jan. 23 and also the subject of new trade rumors (FA-to-be Howard figures to be easier to move than Pau Gasol and his monstrous contract with a couple of years still to run). And even Kobe Bryant now looks flustered as his shooting percentage (33% last four) drops with the winter temperatures in the nearby San Gabriel Mountains. Indeed, it looks as if Lakers more likely to end up in the Draft Lottery than the playoffs (that is, if they trade for a first round pick, which they don't have!) The sight of an Ok City team which throttled L.A. by 15 (and it wasn't that close) in its last visit to Lakers on Jan. 11 and further proved it likes Staples Center by whipping the Clippers at the same venue on Jan. 22 cannot be comforting to L.A. NBA insiders saying that Laker defense even more of a liability than they envisioned, as opponents will usually find their shots with enough patience. It's scary to think what sort of damage Russell Westbrook (30 ppg first two meetings) might be able to do vs. Steve Nash and other Laker perimeter defense traffic cones, and note how Kevin Durant exploded for 42 points in that recent Thunder romp on Jan. 11. 12-OKC -7' 114-108 (211), Okc -6 116-101 (217); 11-La +5' 120-106 (191), OKC -7 100-85 (195), Okc +1 102-93 (199), LA +1 114-106 (2OT-200), OKC -7' 119-90 (192), OKC -8 77-75 (196), LA -2' 99-96 (190), Okc -1' 103-100 (189), OKC -7' 106-90 (191) TV—ABC

NBA FORECAST
continued on next page

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Night Games

Detroit 108 - ORLANDO 105—After losing and failing to cover first two against Orlando, Detroit got a bit of revenge with 106-96 win on Jan. 22 at the Palace. Pistons won that night on the strength of their bench, which scored 48 points, but the fact is that beating the Magic lately hasn't been much of chore with Orlando having dropped 14 of last 16 SU thru Jan. 23. While the first ten of those defeats came in a row and coincided with Big Baby Davis' shoulder injury, his return to active duty has only marginally inspired Jacques Vaughn's troops, whose defensive shortcomings are also being exposed on a nightly basis. *The advantage of the latter is that it has also helped contribute to a very healthy string of "overs" (now 14-1 last 15) for Magic prior to their Jan. 24 game at Amway Center vs. Raptors.* 12-Orl +5 110-106 (187), ORL -1 90-74 (188), DET -4' 105-90 (194); 11-DET +5 89-78 (184), DET +4' 102-95 (182), ORL -7' 119-89 (184)

★★★**New Orleans 90 - MEMPHIS 87**—We suggest that New Orleans get a head start on the new name for the team and simply start referring to the Hornets as the "Pelicans" from this point forward, instead of waiting until October. *Cool new logo and colors; can't wait to see the new uniforms next season!* And the Pelicans have been playing a lot better since G Eric Gordon returned to active duty in late December, winning SU in 7 of his first 11 games in uniform thru Jan. 24. Note that Gordon was still sidelined with knee woes back on Dec. 7 when New Orleans nonetheless managed to sneak inside of 7½ -point impost in Memphis' 96-89 win. And in recent weeks, Hornets (8-2 vs. spread last 10 thru Jan. 24) faring better vs. line than Grizzlies (4-4 last 8 thru same date). The task for Monty Williams' New Orleans defense will be to figure out a better way to slow Memphis' Rudy Gay than in the first meeting, when the ex-UConn star erupted for 28 points. But at 14-6 as road dog, a compelling case can be made for the Pelicans...er, Hornets. Also note Memphis' extended "under" trends (24-8-1 last 33 thru Jan. 24). 12-Mem -7' 96-89 (183); 11-MEM -11 108-99 (176), Mem -4 93-87 (177), NO +5 88-75 (182), MEM -9' 103-91 (179)

NEW YORK 99 - Atlanta 98—The closer we get to the trade deadline, the more the rumor mill will include Atlanta, which is already reportedly inquiring about frontline help *(and even sniffing around L.A. to see if Lake Show might want to part with FA-to-be Dwight Howard, who hardly looks like a happy camper these days at Staples Center).* Whatever, HC Larry Drew appears to have gotten his team's attention after a 58-point debacle at Chicago a few weeks ago and Josh Smith's resultant one-game suspension; *since then, Hawks have only dropped one spread decision in five games thru Jan. 24.* As long as Atlanta has a healthy contingent to take to MSG (Al Horford and Devin Harris among those nursing minor hurts heading into the weekend), "Hawk Show" might be worth a look against Knicks side that has been back-and-forth the past month since PG Ray Felton injured his finger on Xmas vs. the Lakers *(since Felton's injury, NY only 5-7 SU and 6-6 vs. line last 12 thru Jan. 23).* 11-NY -7 99-82 (187), ATL -3 100-90 (186), NY +2' 113-112 (192) CABLE TV—ESPN

DALLAS 106 - Phoenix 92—We've seen a few sparks lately from Phoenix since Lindsey Hunter was promoted to interim HC role in place of deposed Alvin Gentry. But in the end, all we suspect we'll get from Suns is much the same as when Gentry was on the sidelines, as on-court personnel fits are awkward, and several Phoenix players are apparently in the shopping window as the Feb. 21 trade deadlines looms not far over the horizon. Bigger question here is if Dallas is ready to sustain its recent uptick *(5-1 SU last 6, and 7-0 vs. line last seven thru Jan. 24)* and make some sort of belated playoff push now that Dirk Nowitzki is back in the fold, plus whether Mavs might be active player at the deadline as they look to boost their arsenal. *"Totals" alert—Suns "under" last six and 9 of last 10 thru Jan. 24, although Dallas will test that trend with its offense scoring 104 or more last six thru Jan. 24.* 12-Dal +3 97-94 (203); 11-DAL -8 98-89 (195), DAL -5 93-87 (183), Dal -4' 122-99 (184), PHO +3' 96-94 (191)

LA CLIPPERS 101 - Portland 94—Teams met last night at Rose Garden. Somewhat surprisingly, Portland has covered last four, and five of last six on road. 12-La -1 103-90 (201), check 1/26 result; 11-LA -3' 93-88 (200), POR -5' 105-97 (196), La -2 74-71 (189), LA -9 98-97 (187)

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

Golden St. 102 - TORONTO 97—After a brief lull in early January, Golden State has steadied itself with SU wins in three straight and covers in last four *(including rousing successes at Oakland vs. the hot Clippers and Thunder)* thru Jan. 24. The return of G Steph Curry from recent ankle injury has sure helped; Curry is scoring 26 ppg last three *(including those wins over the Clips and Ok City)* thru Jan. 24. But Warriors will have to be at their best vs. a Toronto side that has made a nice pointspread fortress out of Air Canada Centre, covering 12 of its last 16 as host prior to last Saturday's game vs. the Cavs. And most of that success has come minus high-scoring F Andrea Bagnani, who's been on shelf with his latest injury (elbow) since mid December. But Raptors had also lost 5 of last 6 SU prior to Thursday's game at Orlando, and at expected short price, Toronto might not have much (if any) pointspread cushion to reward its backers in case it loses. 11-TOR -1 83-75 (193)

WASHINGTON 101 - Sacramento 90—Look out for the...Wizards?

Believe it or not, Washington is the NBA's hottest pointspread team at the moment with covers in eight straight thru Jan. 24, while SU wins in 5 of last 8 thru same date qualify as 1995-96 Bulls-like stuff in D.C. The return from injury of G John Wall has coincided with some of that recent uptick, although Washington has in fact been covering numbers since early December *(Wizards 19-6-1 vs. line last 26 thru Jan. 24).* Washington also in revenge mode after bitter 95-94 loss (but Wizard cover) in recent trip to Sacto on just-completed western road swing. Wall helped with 14 points that night, but it was Florida rookie G Bradley Beal keeping "Da Bullet" within touching distance by scoring 26 points. Floundering Sacto at the opposite end of the pointspread spectrum, having dropped 9 of last 10 vs. line prior to last Friday's game vs. Thunder. 12-SAC -4' 95-94 (206); 11-Sac +3 115-107 (203)

Memphis 96 - PHILADELPHIA 86—Memphis should be properly focused on the task at hand tonight at Wells Fargo Center after being rudely dumped by 8½-point underdog Philly at FedEx Forum on Dec. 26. Sixers shot 52% from floor that night while holding Memphis under 39%, and Philly got unexpected boost from journeyman Dorell Wright (playing in place of hurting Jason Richardson), who scored 28, and Spencer Hawes, who scored 20 (both season highs) in unexpected 99-89 win. What would be unexpected in rematch would be for Wright and Hawes to replicate those efforts, or for Philly to outshoot Grizzlies so decisively for a second time. Memphis usually offers good value on road (5-2 vs. line last 7 away), and don't forget Grizzlies' recent "under" bent (11-3-1 last 14, and 24-8-1 last 33, thru Jan. 24). And Sixers simply can't sustain momentum, dropping 8 of last 10 SU and 7 of last 10 vs. number thru Jan. 24. 12-Phi +8' 99-89 (183); 11-MEM +1 89-76 (181)

BROOKLYN 111 - Orlando 95—Brooklyn has already scored straight-up hat trick at Orlando's expense this season, although Magic rallied to squeeze inside 8½-point impost at Barclays Center on Nov. 11, just two nights after absorbing 107-68 beatdown from Nets. In fact, these teams had played three times before November was complete, and long before P.J. Carlesimo took over the coaching reins from Avery Johnson in Brooklyn. That dynamic merits much attention, as Nets were 12-2 SU in Carlesimo's first 14 games thru Jan. 24 (though a bit less imposing 8-5-1 vs. line). And in the last three wins for Brooklyn thru Jan. 24, the Nets have made their mark on the stop end, allowing just 85.7 ppg. Which presents a bit of a "totals" dilemma, as with Nets outscoring foes only 91.0-85.7 ppg in 3-game win streak prior to facing Grizzlies last Friday; that conflicts with Orlando's 14-1 "over" stretch thru Jan. 23. *Still, we'll trust the most-pronounced of these recent trends (Nets and "over" in Magic games) until further notice.* 12-Bro -3 107-68 (195), BRO -8' 82-74 (190), Bro -5 98-86 (185); 11-ORL -11' 94-78 (182), Orl -6' 108-91 (184), ORL -11' 86-70 (191) TV—NBA NETWORK

CHICAGO 94 - Charlotte 88—Chicago can at times inspire an extra effort from Charlotte because of the obvious connection between Bobcat owner Michael Jordan and his former team. Such was the case back on New Year's Eve when Charlotte broke an extended 18-game SU losing streak with a 91-81 win over the host Bulls. Bobcats have won a couple of more games since and have basically played .500 vs. the number over the past month, so we can make something of a case for Charlotte against a Chicago side which has been subpar this term as United Center chalk (4-15 in role thru Jan. 24), in good part due to dynamism missing from offense in Derrick Rose's absence. If Bulls also minus Luol Deng (hamstring), not sure Chicago's revenge motive enough to get us on board. And we know that Charlotte can win at United Center. 12-Cha +11' 91-81 (188); 11-CHI -12' 95-89 (184), Chi -13 95-64 (181), Chi -12' 100-68 (180)

DENVER 98 - Indiana 89—Getaway night for Indiana at the end of another extended road trip on which the Pacers have managed to mostly keep their heads above water. But now they must deal with raucous Pepsi Center environment, which has proven good for Denver's health this season (Nuggets 17-3 SU as host). Note that George Karl's team has won the last two meetings vs. Indiana, *both of those in Indianapolis*, including 92-89 win on Dec. 7 when Nuggets prevailed thanks mostly to their bench, which scored a whopping 55 points. Indiana defense has been NBA's stingiest (89.1 ppg and 41.3 % FGs, both NBA bests), but "O" continues to miss contributions of injured F Danny Granger and ranks among the lowest-scoring teams at mere 91 ppg. *Dueling "totals" trends, with Pacers "under" 13-3 last 16 thru Jan. 24, and Nuggets "over" 7-2 last nine thru Jan. 25.* 12-Den +1' 92-89 (195); 11-Den +3 113-109 (200)

UTAH 103 - Houston 91—Teams split first two meetings with home sides winning and covering, including Utah's 102-91 win at Salt Lake City on Nov. 19. And recent trends suggest advantage at EnergySolutions Arena again belongs to Jazz, especially with Houston failing to cover a spread decision in nine straight thru Jan. 24, while Utah 12-6 vs. line at home thru Jan. 25. Rockets also had a 7-game SU losing streak included in that slump that was finally broken by recent win over lowly Charlotte. But Houston continues to be hindered by turnover problems, and Jeremy Lin's sudden dip in form (he's just 7 of 25 from floor with just 25 points total in his last three games thru Jan. 24), and James Harden cooling off (just 29% from floor last five games thru Jan. 24). 12-UTAH -6' 102-91 (197), HOU -6' 124-116 (206); 11-HOU -6 101-85 (196), UTAH -2 104-83 (194), Utah +5' 103-91 (198)

COLLEGE FORECAST - JANUARY 25-28

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Wis.-Green Bay over WIS.-MILWAUKEE by 4 to 6—11-UWM -8 64-63, Uwm +1' 81-75 CABLE TV—ESPNU

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Day Games

Syracuse over VILLANOVA by 4 to 6—(at Wells Fargo Ctr.) 12-SYR -14' 72-61; 11-Syr -9 79-66

★★★Georgia St. 66 - DREXEL 62—CAA sources suggest to keep an eye on quietly surging Georgia State, which has won and covered four straight in impressive fashion as 6-5 frosh G R.J. Hunter (16.2 ppg; son of HC Ron Hunter) emerging as one of loop's most dominant performers. Onlookers also suggested that it might take a couple of months for papa Hunter to mold new components such as his son and VPI transfer GF Manny Atkins (13.8 ppg) into the Panthers' fold. Big difference from first meeting four weeks ago in Atlanta, when GSU was at the end of 5-game losing streak and Drexel experienced rare on-target shooting night (53% from floor). For the most part, Dragons have been hit-and-miss on attack end since high-scoring G Chris Fouch went down with early-season injury, contributing to poor 4-14 sprea dmark for Bruiser Flint's side. 12-Dre +1' 77-60; 11-GSU -4' 58-44, DRE -5 68-46

Ohio St. over PENN ST. by 12 to 15—11-OSU -21' 78-54 TV—ESPN2
SOUTH FLORIDA 45 - Notre Dame 44—Big East sources suspect Mike Brey is resurrecting last year's "slow burn" offense for Notre Dame (no covers last four; also "under" last five) after evidence that the slow-footed Irish simply can't play at an enhanced pace and shake loose for enough clear looks at the bucket in a faster tempo mode. And, since USF HC Stan Heath had decided a while back that his Bulls had a better chance if they, too, reverted to last year's deliberate tempo, the first team to 50 (*no, let's make that 45*) likely wins in Tampa. 11-UND -6 60-49, Und -2' 57-53 (CT-OT-neut.)

★★★Louisville 69 - GEORGETOWN 60—After taking some deserved criticism from demanding HC Rick Pitino following back-to-back losses vs. Syracuse & Villanova, expect loaded Louisville to please their head honcho in this eagerly-anticipated payback game vs. G'Town. The Cards, who had their 20-game home win streak snapped in LY's 71-68 upset loss, will shoot more accurately from foul line after a "*despicable*" (Pitino's word) 12 of 24 in their shocking setback vs. the Wildcats on Tuesday. With oddsmakers making adjustments following the Hoyas' impressive 63-47 win at Notre Dame on Monday, compelled to lay the small number with L'Ville squad, which hasn't dropped 3 straight since Jan. 21, 2010. 11-Gtwn +6 71-68 CABLE TV—ESPN

★★★OKLAHOMA ST. 78 - West Virginia 57—There has been a growing indication that teams that have changed leagues (e.g., West Virginia) are having a difficult time when playing on the road at what, for the visitor, is a very unfamiliar conference venue. And Oklahoma State has been a tough site for *any* visitor for decades. With the Mountaineer program down a tick this season, can't expect WV to get off to a good start in Stillwater. Meanwhile, athletic OSU has had five days to prepare and is off a Monday's 10-point loss at Baylor. The Cowboy roster is deeper than in 2012, and OSU (76% FTs) is tough to catch when it gets the lead. 11-DNP CABLE TV—ESPNU

VIRGINIA 67 - Boston College 62—11-UVA -18 66-49

DUKE 78 - Maryland 61—With Duke in a *devilish* mood following its humiliating 90-63 mauling at Miami, inclined to buck an under-performing Maryland team (5 *straight spread losses*) that has dropped six straight on the ACC trail dating back to LY. The normally-aggressive Blue Devil "D" (38% FGs) should be fired up after Wednesday's rout, helping to fuel Duke's transition game vs. the mistake-prone Terps, getting substandard play at the critical PG position. Look for Duke's normally-steady Gs Seth Curry & Quinn Cook to quickly find their mojo after combining for a ghastly 1 of 21 (*yes, one*) from the field vs. the Hurricanes. 11-Duke -10' 74-61, DUKE -15 73-55 TV—CBS

FORDHAM over Rhode Island by 3 to 5—11-FORD -3' 66-64, RIU -6 78-58
INDIANA ST. over Northern Iowa by 3 to 5—12-Isu +7 65-61; 11-NIA -6 65-48, ISU +1 59-54

Arkansas 73 - SOUTH CAROLINA 67—At a short price, will side with high-octane Arkansas (79 ppg), which is capable of notching its first win as a visitor following expected setbacks at Michigan, Texas A&M and Ole Miss so far TY. Hog mentor Mike Anderson enjoyed the luxury of emptying his bench in the Hogs' 96-70 bashing vs. Mississippi State on Wednesday, while South Carolina is recovering from its draining, come-from-ahead 71-65 defeat at Missouri Monday. Look for UA's dynamic 6-3 soph PG B.J. Young (17.9 ppg, 4.1 apg) to use his size advantage by "posting up" the Gamecocks' 5-9 playmaker Bruce Ellington (WR on football team has played in only 9 games), who has many more TOs (29!) than as assists (17) TY. 11-ARK -5' 76-65

IOWA ST. 84 - Kansas St. 72—KSU recouping from its emotionally/physically-draining battle with heated rival KU on Tuesday. Hence, Wildcats won't easily keep up with deep-shooting, high-powered ISU (converting 9 treys pg; 80 ppg), which is in a nasty mood after laying an egg in its low-emotion 56-51 upset loss at lowly Texas Tech Wednesday. The unselfish Cyclones (17 apg; five players in DDs) own the better-balanced attack, while super sixth-man, 6-2 sr. G Tyrus McGee (13.2 ppg; 45% from the arc) continues to be an instigator off the bench. *Irate ISU covers its 7th straight in series.* 11-ISU -1 72-70, Isu +7' 65-61

KEY RELEASES

★★★★KEY RELEASES★★★★

GEORGIA STATE by 4 over Drexel (Saturday, Jan. 26 Day)
LOUISVILLE by 9 over Georgetown (Saturday, Jan. 26 Day)
OKLAHOMA STATE by 21 over West Virginia (Sat., Jan. 26 Day)
SOUTHERN MISS by 9 over Tulsa (Saturday, January 26 Day)
AIR FORCE by 5 over Wyoming (Saturday, January 26)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
WISCONSIN over Minnesota by 1 to 3—11-Wis -1 68-61 (OT), WIS -10 52-45

GEORGE WASHINGTON over Charlotte by 3 to 5—11-GWU -2' 60-52, CHA -4' 72-62

HOFSTRA over NC Wilmington by 5 to 7—11-NCW -3 86-80, HOF -7' 93-64

TULANE 77 - Rice 58—Improving 13-6 Tulane in an *extra* bad mood for this one. The Green Wave, who blew a 15-point lead in their 71-60 setback at Memphis on Wednesday, are in *triple*-revenge mode vs. woebegone Rice, which is 3-6 its last 9 as a DD-underdog TY. Careful Tulane (only 11.8 TOs pg) has few empty possessions. And the Green Waves' explosive 6-8 jr. F Josh Davis (17.8 ppg) should dominate the paint vs. the smallish, G-heavy Owls, who were out-rebounded 35-15 in their 76-66 loss at UCF on Wednesday. 11-Rice +3 50-49, RICE -4 88-74

TENNESSEE over Alabama by 1 to 3—12-ALA -6 68-65; 11-ALA -3' 62-50 CABLE TV—ESPN2

YOUNGSTOWN ST. over Cleveland St. by 8 to 11—11-Ysu +12' 73-67, Csu -4 67-47

HARVARD over Dartmouth by 4 to 6—12-Har -10' 75-65; 11-HAR -21 63-47, Har -14' 54-38

MARQUETTE 78 - Providence 75—Though MU hasn't played since its 71-69 OT loss at Cincy last Saturday, still interested in taking DDs with industrious PC aggregate suffering only *uno* lopsided loss TY (at that was a spread push in 80-62 defeat at L'Ville Jan. 2). The fast-paced, speedy Friars can run with the erratic-shooting Eagles (converting a Big East-worst 26% triples), who're only 1-4 as home chalk TY. PC's terrific 6-1 jr. G Bryce Cotton (21.9 ppg, 3.0 apg) has been on a scoring binge, while battle-tested sr. PG Vincent Council (10 ppg, 6 apg) can withstand the Eagles' high-pressure defense. 11-Mar -6' 79-72

YALE over Brown by 1 to 3—12-BRO +1 65-51; 11-YALE -13 68-64, Yale -6 73-60

MEMPHIS over Marshall by 17 to 20—11-MEM -8 83-76, Mem -2 87-67, MEM -12 83-57 (CT)

EASTERN MICHIGAN 64 - Northern Illinois 61—Hard-working NIU is feeling "good vibes" following its surprising 74-61 upset victory at Central Michigan on Wednesday. So, points worth taking with Husky squad that received needed scoring help for go-to 6-7 soph F Abdel Nader (13.9 ppg) from 6-7 Norwegian Aksel Bolin, who chimed in with 13 off the bench vs. the Chips. Crooked-shooting EMU (39.9% FGs; 309th in the country) has been poor investment vs. NIU, going just 1-7 vs. the spread the last 8 in the series. *Note that the Huskies are a time-proven 23-12 as a road dog L3+Ys (7-3 TY).* 11-Emu -1' 47-40, EMU -8' 48-45, Niu +8' 55-52 (CT)

Northwestern 65 - NEBRASKA 57—Now that well-schooled, disciplined Northwestern is oozing with confidence following its 55-48 home upset of nationally-ranked Minnesota, strongly recommend the Wildcats, gunning for their third consecutive Big Ten road win. NU's perplexing 1-3-1 zone greatly hinders offensively-challenged Nebraska (57 ppg), which has nobody hitting more than 32% from 3-point land. The Wildcats' own the far superior inside-outside duo in 6-8 sr. F Jared Swopshire (L'Ville transfer; 9.4 ppg, 6 rpg) & sr. G Reggie Hearn (14.1 ppg), while unflappable soph PG Dave Sobolewski (11.4 ppg, 4.6 apg) is a stabilizing force. Cross-sport revenge works. 11-NWU -6 84-74 CABLE TV—ESPNU

Wake Forest 64 - GEORGIA TECH 57—Don't look now, but Wake Forest is suddenly one of the nation's hottest pointspread performers, with covers in 8 of its last 9. Much prefer the Deacs' established 1-2 scoring punch of jr. F Travis McKie (15.3 ppg) & sr. G C.J. Harris (14.6 ppg) than frosh weapons swingman Marcus Georges-Hunt and PF Robert Carter that Tech HC Brian Gregory is counting upon for leadership these days. *Jackets being exposed after their soft pre-ACC slate, failing to cover last six on board.* 11-WFU +1' 59-50, GTU -4' 69-62

MIAMI-OHIO over Ball St. by 1 to 3—11-Mia +7 59-53

SAN DIEGO ST. over New Mexico by 1 to 3—11-Sds +10' 75-70, Unm -1' 77-67, Unm -4' 68-59 (CT-neut.)

Detroit over LOYOLA-CHICAGO by 3 to 5—11-Det -5 65-54, DET -15' 67-52, DET -13 80-71 (CT)

UCF over Smu by 11 to 14—11-Ucf -3' 59-52

KENTUCKY over Lsu by 13 to 16—11-Ky -10 74-50, Ky -16' 60-51 (CT)

Boise St. over NEVADA by 4 to 6—11-DNP

continued on next page

DAYTON 71 - Duquesne 56—No covers in seven straight for Duquesne! 11-Duq +4 83-73, Day +4 74-62

Baylor over TCU by 7 to 8—12-BAY -18' 51-40; 11-DNP

KANSAS 68 - Oklahoma 55—Kansas doesn't appear to be a great team this season; just a team that often plays great at key junctures. The Jayhawks are only 5-6 as a home favorite this season. So, if rugged OU big man Romero Orsby (14.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg) can get KU shot-swatter Jeff Withey in a little foul trouble, the improved 2013 Sooners might hang inside the roomy impost, catching the Jayhawks after their satisfying victory over K-State Tuesday. 11-Kan -7 72-61, KAN -17 84-62 CABLE TV—ESPN

St. BONAVENTURE 72 - Saint Louis 66—After eye-opening, back-to-back upset wins vs. Temple & St. Joe's in the City of Brotherly Love in its previous two games, believe revived St. Bona can snap its unusual 3-game home losing skein vs. SLU bunch that's 0-2 as an away dog TY. The Bonnies' hard-to-guard 6-6 sr. F Demetrius Conger (*16 of 23 FGs last 2 games*) is red hot, while developing Senegalese 7-0 soph C Youssou Ndoeye has scored in DDs in 2 of the last 3 outings. *Plus, you can bet the Bonnies haven't forgotten their season-worst 86-62 blowout in St. Louis LY, when they were outscored 50-24 after intermission!* 11-STL -10 86-62

JAMES MADISON 64 - Old Dominion 50—Please note JMU's eight straight "under" results and five straight covers at home, while Blaine Taylor's struggling OSU has dropped its last five vs. the number. 12-Jmu +3' 58-55; 11-Odu -2 67-61 (OT), ODU -10' 80-71

PITTSBURGH over DePaul by 8 to 11—11-DEP +5 84-81

Ucla over ARIZONA ST. by 1 to 3—11-UCLA -11' 75-58, Ucla -9 66-57

★★★**Southern Miss 75 - TULSA 66**—Tulsa's rookie HC Danny Manning has his squad (4 straight covers) on the right track following its 79-61 blowout at Marshall on Jan. 9. However, strongly believe that the Hurricane's mini-uptick comes to a crashing halt vs. ball-stealin', strong-boarding USM (11.8 spg; 2nd nationally; +6.3 rpg), which will have boundless energy following its bench-clearing 102-46 bludgeoning of that same Marshall team Wednesday. Hattiesburg sources tell us that Philly native 6-5 jr. juco Dwayne Davis (team-leading 13.3 ppg; 48% from tripleville) has brought a tough, inner-city mentality to USM, while pass-first distributor 5-11 jr. Neil Watson (8.8 ppg, 5.2 apg) is displaying excellent peripheral vision and passing skills. 11-USM -6' 77-69 (OT)

Santa Clara 75 - SAN DIEGO 67—Although USD enjoyed a brief resurgence earlier this month, rumors are floating around WCC circles that HC Bill Grier could still walk the plank if the Toreros begin to lose traction in the final stages of the season. Santa Clara's best effort is hard to forecast with G Kevin Foster likely to keep firing away from the perimeter whether he's hot or cold. But the Broncos are getting more help from other scoring sources lately, as they reversed their own recent slump with road wins at San Francisco & Pepperdine. *SCU netoworthy 6-1 vs. spread away.* 11-Usd +9' 75-62, USD -6 70-65

Troy over LA-MONROE by 5 to 7—12-TROY -4 64-55; 11-TROY -8' 91-63

Utep 76 - EAST CAROLINA 66—With veteran UTEP seeking to stay in the thick of the C-USA race, have no qualms bucking defensively-soft ECU (77 ppg). Tim Floyd's full-court trapping defense will be a nuisance for the Pirates' PG Miguel Paul, who has committed 19 TOs over the last 5 games, while connecting on only 10 of his last 38 FG attempts. The Miners' high-level backcourt duo of PG Jacques Streeter (9.4 ppg, 4.6 apg) & smooth-stroking SG Konner Tucker (12.6 ppg; 51% from arc) wins the perimeter battle, while blue-collar 6-9 soph F Cedric Lang keeps the pressure on ECU's primary scorer, 6-8 F Maurice Kemp. 11-UTEP -6 70-56

MISSOURI 68 - Vanderbilt 64—Underestimate Vandy HC Kevin Stallings at your own peril, as his Dores are making unmistakable progress, with his young backcourt (led by 6-5 soph Kedren Johnson, now 15.1 ppg) finally becoming more settled the last few weeks. Recent injuries to key Mizzou weapons F Laurence Bowers (knee) & G Keion Bell (ankle) are making the Tigers (just 1-3 vs. line last four) a bit more of a risky proposition these days. 11-DNP CABLE TV—ESPN

OREGON ST. 77 - Washington St. 69—Dangerous game for WSU. While the Beavers are riding high after beating Washington for their first Pac-12 win this season, the Cougars have to get their chins off their chest after blowing a DD lead to lose at Oregon. Prefer the better-balanced hosts (five active players averaging double figures). 11-WSU +1 81-76, Wsu +10 83-73, Osu -4 69-64 (CT-neut.), Wsu +7 72-55 (CB)

TEXAS A&M over Georgia by 12 to 15—11-DNP

Night Games

Ohio 74 - KENT ST. 65—With highly-experienced, good-shooting Ohio (*all starters back from LY's Sweet Sixteen; 49% FGs*) eager to stay tied with Akron atop the MAC East Division, have no problem laying small price vs. rebuilding KSU bunch, which has already suffered home losses vs. Toledo & the Zips. The surging Bobcats have gone 7-1 SU since inserting bruising top reserve 6-8, 263 C Reggie Keely (11.1 ppg) into the starting lineup. Envision Ohio's do-everything sr. PG D.J. Cooper (14.5 ppg, 8.3 apg, 3.5 rpg) running circles around the Golden Flashes' still-learning 6-4 soph counterpart Kris Brewer (only 2.4 apg). *Plus, this one has added significance for the Bobcats' respected first-year mentor Jim Christian, who was the Kent State head man for six campaigns (2002-08).* 11-OHIO -5 87-65, KSU -2' 68-61

GONZAGA over San Francisco by 13 to 16—11-GON -15' 74-63, USF +5 66-65

SAINT JOSEPH'S over Xavier by 1 to 3—11-XAV -7 68-55

Temple 68 - BUTLER 63—Now Butler is finding out about the Big Five after its first A-10 road trip to Philly resulted in a bitter 1-point loss at La Salle Wednesday night. Brad Stevens hoping that sharpshooting Arkansas transfer G Rotnei Clarke (16 ppg) returns from his recent neck strain in time for this one vs. Temple. But even if Clarke is available, Owls can fluster the Bulldogs, much as did the Explorers, and Fran Dunphy's well-balanced strike force, led by G Khalif Wyatt (17.5 ppg), was enough to outscore Syracuse in December. 11-DNP CABLE TV—ESPN2

HOUSTON over Uab by 4 to 6—11-UAB -8' 80-69

SAINT MARY'S over Pepperdine by 14 to 17—11-Stm -13 74-45, STM -23 61-47

MIDDLE TENN. ST. over Western Kentucky by 9 to 12—11-MTS -13' 72-64, WKY +9 73-67

TOLEDO over Bowling Green by 1 to 3—11-BGU -10' 66-63

CENTRAL MICHIGAN over Western Michigan by 1 to 3—11-WMU -8 64-61, CMU +2' 76-70

AKRON over Buffalo by 5 to 7—11-BUF -2' 82-70, Buf +6' 74-70

COLUMBIA over Cornell by 4 to 6—12-Col -2 67-58; 11-COL -3' 61-56, COR -3' 65-60

WRIGHT ST. 66 - Ill.-Chicago 54—Midweek loss at Youngstown temporarily cooled Wright State after the surprising Raiders had covered 8 of their previous 9 on the board. But Billy Donlon's squad has made quite a fortress out of the Nutter Center (*which was once better known as the venue where John McCain introduced Sarah Palin as his GOP running mate in 2008*), covering last six as host. The suffocating Wright State "D," allowing mere 56 ppg, could pose problems for UIC attack that has bogged down in recent weeks. 11-Wsu -1 74-70 (OT), WSU -8 69-63

OREGON over Washington by 13 to 16—11-WAS -9 76-60, ORE +1 82-57, WAS -5 90-86 (NIT)

ARIZONA 74 - Southern Cal 68—If interim SC HC Bob Cantu is really serious about forcing the tempo more than the Trojans did when Kevin O'Neill was calling the shots from the sidelines, such an accelerated pace would seem to be a plus for host Arizona. But the Wildcats have walked a tightrope so often this season that we're a bit reluctant to lay a significant number. SC is not without some weapons (UCI transfer F Eric Wise and Wake Forest transfer G J.T. Terrell in particular) who could make Arizona sweat just a bit. 11-Ari +1' 57-46, ARI -13 70-54 CABLE TV—ESPNU

Towson 71 - WILLIAM & MARY 62—Never mind that Towson is ineligible for the CAA's postseason tourney due to academic progress penalties. The Tigers are one of the nation's most-improved teams under 2nd-year HC Pat Skerry, who has remade his roster with a slew of Big East transfers (including frontliners ex-Georgetown Jerrelle Benimon & ex-Providence Bilal Dixon, plus ex-South Florida G Mike Burwell), who have helped LY's 1-31 side to wins and covers in 6 of last 9 despite narrow losses in last two outings. While Towson ascends, snakebit W&M declines, losing last 8 SU (and 1-6 last 7 vs. line). The thin Tribe bench contributed to a Jan. 9 loss at Towson, and those recurring depth issues have put HC Tony Shaver on the hot seat. 12-TOW -5 99-86 (2OT); 11-Wmu -4 66-49

LONG BEACH ST. over UC Irvine by 4 to 6—11-Lbs -13 74-60, LBS -17 77-50, Lbs -13 68-57 (CT-neut.)

NORTH CAROLINA ST. 72 - North Carolina 71—Reports of internal discord and our own suspicions about HC Mark Gottfried (whose reputation as a much better recruiter than game coach are being confirmed by erratic efforts of his NCS side) have gotten us off of the Wolfpack scent for the time being. And for good reason, especially with NCS failing to cover 6 of its last 7 as chalk. Meanwhile, nearby Tobacco Road rival UNC is experiencing a bit of a renaissance with three wins and covers in a row. Explosive swingman Reggie Bullock (14.2 ppg) is now emerging as a reliable scoring complement to 6-9 James Michael McAdoo (14.7 ppg). 11-UNC -13 74-55, Unc -6' 86-74, Unc -9' 69-67 (CT-neut.) CABLE TV—ESPN

TEXAS 74 - Texas Tech 63—With TT acquiring an enhanced self-image (at least temporarily) following its surprising 56-51 home upset vs. talented Iowa State, the suddenly-upbeat Red Raiders might be able to stay within earshot of a young Texas crew, which suffered a serious blow with the sidelining injury to leading rebounder 6-7 soph Jonathan Holmes (broken hand vs. Oklahoma on Monday). TT's highly-touted frosh G Josh Gray (16 pts. vs. ISU; ESPN rated him the 18th best prep PG LY) is becoming a more confident scorer, while productive 6-7 soph F Jordan Tolbert (9 ppg; 5.7 rpg; 23 pts. last 2 games) can do some business down low sans the aforementioned Holmes hovering in the paint. *The hiccupsing Horns only 2-9 last 11 as DD chalk.* 11-TEX -18 74-57, Tex -11 71-67 (OT)

VA. COMMONWEALTH 68 - La Salle 63—Buoyed by its midweek win over Top Ten Butler side that temporarily revived its recently-flagging Big Dance at-large hopes, La Salle is at least feeling better about itself heading into the treacherous Siegel Center. High-pressure "Shaka Ball" can unnervingly many unsuspecting A-10 foes who are getting a taste of the VCU style for the first time. But sources suggest that the Explorers have the savvy ballhandlers in their vet backcourt (especially since Virginia Tech transfer Ty Garland became eligible in mid-December) to deal with the Rams' disruptive tactics. 11-DNP

COLLEGE FORECAST continued on next page

Florida over MISSISSIPPI ST. by 19 to 22—11-FLA -9 69-57
WICHITA ST. over Bradley by 13 to 16—12-Wsu -4 69-63; 11-Wsu -11' 90-51, WSU -20' 78-41

Evansville 72 - ILLINOIS ST. 66—Illinois State is breathing again, with two wins in a row following six defeats on the trot, but the Redbirds barely survived on Wednesday vs. Indiana State and have still dropped 7 of last 8 vs. line. Recurring long-distance shooting woes (*ISU 0 for 13 from tripleville at midweek vs. the Sycamores*) make the Redbirds a very hard sell these days. Much prefer visiting Evansville and on-fire sr. G Colt Ryan (22 ppg last nine). 11-ISU -8 75-73, EVA -3 79-71

NORTH TEXAS over Arkansas-L.R. by 1 to 3—12-ALR -3 67-53; 11-Alr +6' 69-66, Unt +3 75-67 (OT)

Mississippi 79 - AUBURN 68—Fast-paced, high-scoring Ole Miss (82 ppg) looking to stay tied for first place with Florida in the SEC. Therefore, won't flinch in laying several hoops with the money-making Rebels (9-3 vs. spread thru Jan. 23), who prevent opposing teams from staging comebacks by yielding only 28% from downtown. Ole Miss' gifted 6-2 jr. juco G Marshall Henderson (18.9 pg) is one of the loop's top newcomers, while the formidable inside duo of 6-7 sr. F Murphy Holloway (15.8 ppg, 10.6 rpg) & 6-9 sr. F Reginald Buckner (10.4, 8.1 rpg) should get a plethora of second-chance pts. vs. the Tigers' limited forecourt. 11-AUB +1 69-68 (2OT), MISS -8 61-54, Miss -4 68-54 (CT-neut.)

ARKANSAS ST. over Florida Atlantic by 7 to 10—12-FAU +4' 72-65; 11-Fau -1' 58-50, Asu +3 70-55 (CT-neut.)

Louisiana Tech 67 - UTAH ST. 58—Sure, USU remembers getting rudely dumped by La Tech in last March's WAC Tourney, when the Ags were the top seed and expecting another Big Dance invitation. But the season has turned inside-out in a hurry for Stew Morrill after top scorer G Preston Medlin (16.1 ppg) and F Kyisean Reed (third-leading scorer at 12.1 ppg and also 58% from floor) have gone down with recent injuries, partly explaining the Utags' five straight spread losses thru Jan. 23. 11-USU -3' 69-65, USU -9' 77-63, Ltu +4' 72-70 (CT-neut.)

Hawaii 71 - UC SANTA BARBARA 65—Mainland trips a lot easier this season for Hawaii now that the Warriors play in the Big West, as it's all one-stop flights to California these days instead of the several connections involved in past journeys to the many remote WAC outposts scattered among three different time zones. Coach Gib Arnold's side has learned to play away from home, covering its first three as visitor this season (prior to Thursday at Cal Poly) after enjoying similar spread successes on the road last season. Host UCSB could have its hands full dealing with a legit "big" (Hawaii's 6-10 Vander Joaquim), and most Big West observers believe now is about the time for the Warriors to begin an ascent after various impact frosh and transfers (including high-scorer ex-Nebraska F Christian Standhardinger at 14.7 ppg) have had a couple of months to play together. 11-DNP

★★★**Air Force 64 - WYOMING 59**—Mountain West sources have their doubts that Wyo HC Larry Shyatt can keep his Cowboys afloat with almost no bench and main perimeter threat G Luke Martinez (14 ppg) on the suspended/injured list after breaking his hand during a recent bar fight in Laramie. Meanwhile, the recent scoring spree by Air Force sr. F Mike Fitzgerald (17.8 ppg last five) is finally providing a capable second scoring option for the Falcs beyond star G Michael Lyons (18.6 ppg). 11-Wyo -2 64-53, Afa +12 58-53

SEATTLE over Texas St. by 12 to 15—11-DNP

SAN JOSE ST. 55 - Texas-Arlington 54—Be careful in games involving San Jose State as long as star G James Kinney (20. 6 ppg) and starting F Louis Garrett remain suspended. 11-DNP

IDAHO 77 - Utsa 58—Hard to make much of a case these days for a UTSA side than had posted just one SU win in its last 13 games and one spread cover in its last six prior to Thursday's game at Seattle. Much prefer value-laden Idaho team that had covered 7 of last 9 prior to Thursday vs. Texas State and owns effective inside-outside balance on attack end with Gs Connor Hill and Stephen Madison (combined 27 ppg & 48% from floor) able to space the court effectively with rugged 6-10 C Kyle Barone (15.6 ppg) causing havoc for foes on blocks. 11-DNP

Colorado St. 62 - FRESNO ST. 51—We expect that wherever legendary HC Boyd Grant might be these days, he'll be interested in the outcome of this battle between two of the schools he used to coach. Grant would be positively thrilled at the deliberate tactics employed by current Bulldog mentor Rodney Terry, reminding longtime regional observers of the type of tortured pace that Grant's Fresno teams used to employ. But CSU's sr.-laden lineup is not likely to get too rattled by the sight of a half-empty Save-Mart Center. And the Bulldog frontline will be hard-pressed to cope with the Rams' 6-10 Minnesota transfer Colton Iverson (15 ppg & 9 rpg) and ultra-aggressive PF Pierce Hornung (10 rpg), who key CSU's nation's-best +14.1 pg rebound margin. *CSU a lot more lethal than the Wyoming squad (minus star G Luke Martinez) that was recently throttled in this building.* 11-DNP

CAL POLY SLO 79 - CS Northridge 69—Too many demons, perhaps, for Bobby Braswell's CSN to exorcise, considering their 6-game spread losing streak thru Jan. 23 and the memory of its nightmarish 100-54 loss at Mott Gym last season. Cal Poly (5-1 vs. line last six prior to Thursday's game vs. Hawaii) has been providing a lot more spread value lately. And HC Joe Calero's vexing combination of defenses could further unnerv the recently-misfiring Matadors. 11-SLO -14 100-54, CSN +6' 94-81

PACIFIC 81 - CS Fullerton 73—Thanks largely to a Big West-best 47% shooting, Bob Thomason's UOP had covered 5 of its last 6, and 10 of its last 14 prior to Thursday's game vs. UC Riverside. Meanwhile, streaky Fullerton is trending downward lately (the defensively-suspect Titans no covers last three prior to Thursday's game at Davis). 11-CSF -11' 78-73, Csf -3 69-68

UC DAVIS 70 - UC Riverside 64—Riverside not much of an alternative, but hard to ignore the curious poitns spread success of the road team (5-0 last five prior to Thursday's game vs. Fullerton) in games featuring Kimberly Guilfoyle's alma mater UC Davis in recent weeks. 11-Ucr -3 60-58, UCR -11 59-54

Byu 77 - PORTLAND 56—Portland (which had scored more than 57 points just once in last eight games prior to Thursday's clash vs. USF) simply lacks the firepower and shot-creators to make up any sort of a deficit. The Pilots aren't helping themselves by shooting only 29.2% beyond the arc. Hard to envision Eric Reveno's side keeping pace with a BYU quintet featuring legit big-time scoring options G Tyler Haws (21.6 ppg) & PF Brandon Davies (18 ppg). 11-Byu -13 79-60, BYU -21 76-66 CABLE TV—ESPNU

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Day Games

ST. JOHN'S 60 - Seton Hall 57—Although coach Steve Lavin missed last season, rest assured he knows what happened in the previous term when his St. John's team last met nearby rival and "Catholic 7" cohort Seton Hall; *Pirates won by 30 at the Pru Center.* But still not sure we want to lay an enlarging number with a Red Storm side that has been a lot more effective in a dog role this season. Seton Hall still thinks it has a shot at a Big Dance at-large spot after shaking its recent 4-game losing streak, and the Pirates are better balancing the floor this season with a new post scoring threat in 6-11 Southern Illinois transfer Eugene Teague (12 ppg) to complement versatile 6-6 jr. swingman Fuquan Edwin (17.2 ppg, 48.1% beyond the arc). *Despite last year's 158-points scored in Newark, we're looking "under," as both trending that way (St. John's "under" last 6, and the Hall "under" 4 of last 5).* 11-SHU -9 94-64

INDIANA 65 - Michigan St. 62—These two took turns landing haymakers last season, when the respective host sides scored 15-point wins, with the teams splitting a pair of encounters. But not as sure we want to ask the Hoosiers (*who, after Duke's midweek loss at Miami, likely take over the top spot in the polls with a win*) to do the same, considering they've covered just 1 of their last 6. Foes have been able to disrupt IU's halfcourt sets by employing various traps that have occasionally unnerved accurate-shooting but somewhat slow-footed G Jordan Hulls and frosh Yogi Ferrell. Tom Izzo's Spartans have caught lightning in a bottle in their current 6-game win streak, which has thrust them to the top of the Big Ten table, so this one probably stays close in Bloomington. 11-MSU -6 80-65, IND +2' 70-55 TV—CBS

CLEMSON 69 - Virginia Tech 58—As the season progresses, Brad Brownell has been doing a better job finding some traction for his Clemson troops (who have covered their last three) than has VPI counterpart James Johnson, the first-year Blacksburg mentor who's seen his Hokies cover only 1 of their last 8 prior to last Thursday's blood war vs. Commonwealth rival Virginia. The emergence of versatile soph F K.J. McDaniels (10.7 ppg) as an attack-end option has reduced the scoring burden on 6-8 PF Devin Booker, while Brownell's frosh Gs Jordan Roper and Adonis Filer are now making more consistent contributions. *Tech's inconsistencies illustrated by efforts in recent weeks from soph G Robert Browne, expected to take some of the scoring load off of first option G Erick Greene, but instead has connected on just 17 of his last 79 from the floor (21.5%!) since mid-December.* 11-VTU -3 67-65, CLEM -6 58-56, Vtu +3' 68-63 (CT-neut.)

MASSACHUSETTS over Richmond by 1 to 3—11-Mass +4' 79-68

CONNECTICUT 66 - Rutgers 63—Many big East sources are wondering if HC Kevin Ollie can continue to keep UConn focused as the season moves into February, considering the Huskies' postseason ban. Losses in three of last five (albeit vs. quality opposition) suggest there might be something to that train of thought. *If only we had a bit more faith in Rutgers, perhaps this could be a stronger recommendation on the Scarlet Knights.* But Rutgers does own a pair of electric Gs in Eli Carter (15.6 ppg) & Myles Mack (13.2 ppg). Note that the road team has covered five straight Scarlet Knights games. 11-RUT +6' 67-60

MISSOURI ST. 72 - Drake 64—Drake in revenge mode after an earlier 77-65 loss to Mizzou State. But remember that the first meeting took place in Des Moines, and the Bulldogs enter Springfield off of a rousing upset win over loop heavyweight Creighton. Erratic Drake has covered just one of its last four on the Missouri Valley trail this season. 12-Msu +10 77-65; 11-MSU -9' 72-61, Msu +2 57-39

COLORADO 75 - California 61—Cal not scaring anybody since being exposed as a negligible force in early December at Wisconsin. *Thru Jan. 23, the Bears had since lost 7 of 11 SU and 8 of 10 vs. the spread.* Lack of a frontline presence has limited even what shrewd strategist Mike Montgomery can accomplish. Fundamental matchups now look even more problematic for Cal than a year ago, when the Buffs ousted the Bears from the Pac-12 Tourney, now that CU has added 6-10 star frosh F Josh Scott (13 ppg) to a frontcourt that already included 6-7 rebound machine Andre Roberson (11.5 caroms pg). 11-CAL -12 57-50, COL +2' 70-57, Col +6 70-59 (CT-neut.)

COLLEGE FORECAST
continued on next page

Iowa 73 - PURDUE 66—Since Purdue's modest 3-game win streak has come vs. teams without winning records (Nebraska, Penn State & West Virginia), would definitely side with rising Iowa, whose 70-50 victory at Northwestern on Jan. 13 is looking more and more impressive after the Cats subsequently sprang upsets vs. Illinois & Minnesota. The Hawkeyes (yielding only 38% FGs & 67 ppg; gave up 72 ppg LY)—who're arguably the most improved defensive team in the Big Ten—should have a positive carry-over effect from their valiant comeback try (they cut the deficit to 4 after trailing by 23 in the 2nd-H) in their 72-63 setback at Ohio State on Tuesday. 11-Pur -4' 79-76, PUR -10' 75-68

Creighton 79 - SOUTHERN ILLINOIS 64—Creighton in a puzzling funk at the moment after two straight defeats have knocked the Bluejays down several notches on the rankings ladder. But can't think of a better Valley foe to get well against than SIU, which has dropped 8 of its last 9 SU for flustered new HC Barry Hinson. *Saluki bench production (or lack thereof) has become acute in recent weeks, and note the pair of near-identical 19-point wins by Creighton in this series last term, when Bluejay star F Doug McDermott hit 71.4% from the floor over the two meetings.* 11-CRE -14 90-71, Cre -6' 88-69

SOUTH ALABAMA over Florida Intl. by 7 to 10—12-Usa -4' 79-68; 11-Fiu +6 65-62, FIU -2 81-74

Night Games

Michigan 79 - ILLINOIS 70—Don't believe that Tuesday's 71-51 win over limited Nebraska suggests that Illinois is back on course after the Illini had dropped 4 of their previous 5 SU and 7 of the prior 8 vs. the number. Illinois' lack of paint presence has been exploited recently by most of its competent foes, of which high-flying Michigan would certainly qualify. John Beilein's offense (hitting 51% from floor) certainly the smoothest-running on the Assembly Hall hardwood. *Wolverines also "over" 6-2 last eight.* 11-MICH -5 70-61, Mich +2 72-61

MIAMI-FLORIDA 67 - Florida St. 56—Before assuming a possible letdown by Miami after its big upset romp over Duke at midweek, consider that Jim Larranaga's Hurricanes are 11-3 vs. the line this season, even more impressive since key C Reggie Johnson (who has just returned to active duty) has been on the shelf with a thumb injury for much of the campaign. FSU has been blowing too hot and cold to be trusted. And now the Noles are likely minus one of their best inside scoring threats after the scary neck sparin suffered by PF Terrance Shannon last Saturday at Virginia. 11-FSU -6' 64-59, MIA -1 78-62, Fsu -3 82-71 (CT-neut.) CABLE TV—ESPNU

NORTHEASTERN over George Mason by 1 to 3—12-Neu +7' 84-74; 11-NEU +3 85-82 (OT)

UTAH over Stanford by 4 to 6—11-STAN -23 68-65, UTAH +12 58-57

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

Delaware 67 - DREXEL 62—Homecourt edge meant something last year when these two tangoed, as the host handily won and covered by DD margins, as these nearby I-95 CAA rivals split a pair. But not sure we want to ask Drexel to repeat its end of the bargain from last season, noting the Dragons' 4-14 spread mark thru Jan. 25, as Bruiser Flint's side has never quite been able to replace the firepower that injured G Chris Fouch (16.7 ppg) would have provided. Although Drexel has still been good for a few thrills (*such as G Frantz Massenat's 50-foot game-winner to nip Hofstra at the buzzer last Wednesday!*). 11-DEL +3' 71-60, DRE -13' 71-55

James Madison 57 - NC WILMINGTON 54—Wilmington in payback mode (as it often is this season) after being on the short end of an earlier 78-50 score at Harrisonburg on Jan. 9, when the Dukes held Seahawks to mere 27.5% shooting and F Keith Rendlemen (scored 17) was UNCW's only DD scorer. *But the real angle we want to follow is the eight straight "unders" by JMU prior to Saturday's game vs. ODU!* 12-JMU-8 78-50; 11-Jmu +3 69-61, Ncw +2' 70-59 (CT-neut.)

LOUISVILLE over Pittsburgh by 5 to 7—11-Lvl +3 73-62, LVL -8' 57-54 CABLE TV—ESPN

Kansas over WEST VIRGINIA by 4 to 6—11-DNP CABLE TV—ESPN

MARQUETTE 64 - South Florida 48—After tinkering with the idea of a faster-paced tempo, South Florida HC Stan Heath has reverted back to the root canal style that helped the Bulls reach the Big Dance last March. But any thought of a USF renaissance after the recent upset of Georgetown then fizzled pretty quickly in the Bulls' subsequent 55-47 loss to Seton Hall, as recently-encouraging frosh G Javontae Hawkins (who scored DDs in previous games vs. Rutgers & the Hoyas) was held to a mere 2 points in Newark. So much for USF's supposed new scoring weapon. Meanwhile, Buzz Williams is finally getting some effective 3-point shooting in Marquette's recent outings from soph G Todd Mayo, as expected long-range contributions from Arizona State transfer and supposed sharpshooter Trent Lockett (still misfiring near the 31% range from beyond the arc) have yet to materialize. 11-MAR -9' 67-47 CABLE TV—ESPNU

SPECIAL TICKER

by Chuck Sippl, Senior Editor

BUTLER...Reports from Indianapolis report that high-scoring G Rotnei Clarke (16 ppg, 44.4% treys) appears on track to return this Saturday vs. Temple. Clarke has miss three straight games (Butler 2-1 SU) after jamming his neck into the padding behind the basket in the Bulldogs' January 12 victory at Dayton.

FORDHAM...Sr. F Chris Gaston (14 ppg 8 rpg), the Rams' top player, reinjured his knee and didn't play in the 45-point loss to Dayton. Gaston reinjured the same knee that he had surgery on in November and kept him out until Dec. 15.

MASSACHUSETTS...Jesse Morgan, a 6-5 junior guard who was the second-leading scorer for the Minutemen at 13.4 ppg, tore his ACL and will miss the remainder of the season. Morgan was injured just 5 minutes into the game against Saint Louis on Jan. 10. Morgan's absence is a big blow considering Raphael Putney's production is down from 10.1 ppg last season to just 7.1 ppg this year, and he's shooting just 38%.

MIAMI-FLORIDA...Burly (6-10, 290), but sweet-passing sr. C Reggie Johnson returned to action Wednesday night, just in time to be a part of the Hurricanes' impressive 90-63 rout of No. 1 Duke. Johnson (11.3 ppg, 9.5 rpg) had missed eight straight games with a fractured thumb. HC Jim Larranaga says he didn't decide to play Johnson (no points and 5 rebounds in 16 minutes vs. the Blue Devils) until just before game time.

MISSOURI...The Tigers have been shorthanded now for four straight games, with top overall big man sr. F Laurence Bowers (16.8 ppg, 58% FGs, 6.9 rpg) out the last four contests with a sprained knee. And the roster was thinner in this week's narrow 71-65 victory over visiting South Carolina, with valuable 6-4 sr. G Keion Bell (9 ppg, 4 rpg) out with a sprained ankle. Meanwhile, HC Frank Haith remains under pressure as a result of the NCAA investigation of improprieties at Miami while Haith was coaching in Coral Gables. The NCAA has revealed this week that questionable interrogation procedures will delay any action on the matters in the Hurricane football and basketball programs.

SYRACUSE...The Orange have gone 3-0 SU, 1-2 vs. the spread (with victories by 9, 2 and 2 points) since the suspension of 6-8 starting F James Southerland (13.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg), reportedly due to an investigation into his academic record.

TEXAS...The struggling Longhorns (five straight losses) suffering a major loss in Monday's 73-67 defeat (but cover) at Oklahoma, when top rebounder Jonathan Holmes (7.7 ppg, 7.1 rpg) sustained a hand fracture that is expected to sideline him for several weeks.

UTAH STATE...The Aggies have lost two veteran starters in the last week. First, starting F Kyisean Reed (12.1 ppg, 6.5 rpg) was lost for the season with a knee injury Jan. 17 vs. New Mexico State. Meanwhile, top scorer and assist man jr. G Preston Medlin (16 ppg, 3.2 apg, 39% treys, 82% FTs) will miss 6-8 weeks with a wrist injury.

KEY TO HOOP RATINGS: HCV—Home Court Value. CR—Current Power Rating. PSR—Pointsperad Record (including neutral site and pick games). SUH—Straight-up record at home. SUA—Straight-up Record Away. PF-PA—Average Points For-Points Against at home & on the road. **ALL TEAMS MEASURED FROM BASE RATING OF ZERO.** Team with a CR of 6 would be a 7-point favorite over a team with a CR of 13 on a neutral floor. Give allotted points for HCV to home team. Teams in **BOLDFACE** type have had their rating moved more than two points either for the better (+) or worse (-) since last posting. *—Straight-up Home and Away records and scoring averages include only those games listed on the Las Vegas Line.

2012-13 HOOP RATINGS AND POINTSPREAD RECORDS See key on page 9

HCV TEAM	CR	PSR	SUH*	PF-PA*	SUA*	PF-PA*	HOME		ROAD		HCV TEAM	CR	PSR	SUH*	PF-PA*	SUA*	PF-PA*	HOME		ROAD	
							FAV	DOG	FAV	DOG								FAV	DOG	FAV	DOG
5 Air Force	10	8-3	3-1	81-72	2-5	65-77	1-0	2-0	2-0	2-3	4 Nebraska	18	9-9	5-5	56-59	2-5	55-65	1-3	3-3	0-0	4-3
5 Akron	4	8-4	5-0	73-60	3-2	69-67	3-2	0-0	3-1	0-1	4 Nevada	14	6-11	7-3	70-69	2-5	67-73	3-6	0-1	0-1	3-3
5 Alabama	7	6-8	5-2	63-59	2-3	64-64	1-5	1-0	1-1	1-2	6 New Mexico	3	10-8	9-1	71-61	4-1	65-64	5-5	0-0	2-0	2-1
4 Arizona	-1	8-7	7-0	77-62	4-1	74-61	3-3	1-0	3-2	0-0	6 New Mexico St.	10	10-8	8-1	70-57	3-6	65-71	7-1	0-1	0-2	3-4
5 Arizona State	10	8-5	6-2	67-63	2-1	71-64	3-3	1-1	1-0	2-0	5 North Carolina	3	10-6	7-1	81-68	3-3	74-72	6-2	0-0	2-1	1-2
5 Arkansas	9	4-6	4-1	81-70	0-3	61-75	2-2	0-1	0-0	1-2	4 N. Carolina St.	3	9-8	9-0	85-69	1-3	71-72	5-3	1-0	0-2	1-1
6 Ark.-Little Rock	18	10-9	8-1	73-62	1-7	58-76	5-1	3-0	0-1	1-6	4 NC Wilmington	22	7-7	4-1	71-65	0-9	56-77	3-1	1-0	0-0	3-6
5 Arkansas State	13	7-8	6-2	69-61	2-5	65-70	4-2	1-1	0-4	2-1	5 North Texas	18	6-9	2-3	69-70	1-7	60-70	2-3	0-0	0-0	2-6
4 Auburn	14	8-8	5-3	69-66	2-4	66-69	1-4	2-1	0-0	5-1	4 Northeastern	14	8-6	3-2	72-71	5-1	70-68	0-3	1-1	1-0	4-1
3 Ball State	20	6-8	2-5	60-65	2-5	60-72	1-3	0-3	0-0	5-2	4 Northern Illinois	21	9-7	1-5	51-61	2-8	60-70	1-0	1-4	0-0	7-3
4 Baylor	4	6-7	4-2	68-62	2-2	69-65	2-4	0-0	1-0	2-1	6 Northern Iowa	8	10-9	8-2	73-60	2-3	64-71	5-4	1-0	0-0	3-2
5 Boise State	8	7-7	6-1	77-68	4-3	72-69	2-5	0-0	2-2	3-0	5 Northwestern+	8	10-7	4-7	62-64	3-1	66-62	2-5	3-1	0-0	3-1
5 Boston College	12	8-5	4-3	68-66	2-3	71-69	1-2	3-0	0-0	3-2	5 Notre Dame	6	8-8	9-2	72-61	1-1	65-64	5-6	0-0	0-1	1-0
5 Bowl. Green	16	8-8	5-2	57-53	0-7	64-70	2-2	3-0	0-1	2-3	4 Ohio	4	8-7	10-0	80-58	2-3	66-73	7-3	0-0	1-2	0-2
4 Bradley	14	9-9	7-2	69-61	3-4	65-71	4-3	1-1	1-0	2-4	4 Ohio State	-1	9-7	9-1	77-55	1-3	63-68	6-4	0-0	1-1	1-1
4 Brown	23	3-3	3-0	70-64	0-3	49-69	0-0	3-0	0-0	0-3	5 Oklahoma	7	9-4	6-0	76-61	2-2	67-67	5-1	0-0	0-1	2-1
4 Buffalo	18	5-12	2-4	60-64	3-6	65-70	1-4	0-1	1-0	3-5	5 Oklahoma State	6	8-7	8-1	70-51	0-4	65-74	6-3	0-0	0-1	0-3
5 Butler	0	12-5	7-0	71-57	4-2	66-62	3-3	1-0	2-1	3-0	4 Old Dominion	21	5-10	0-8	62-73	0-6	60-72	0-3	3-2	0-0	1-5
6 BYU	5	10-9	11-1	81-61	3-2	73-74	8-4	0-0	1-1	1-2	4 Oregon	5	9-8	11-0	73-56	4-1	80-75	5-5	1-0	1-2	2-0
4 California	10	5-10	3-4	66-65	2-3	65-71	1-5	0-1	1-0	1-3	4 Oregon State	10	8-7	4-4	74-72	1-3	72-75	3-3	1-1	0-1	3-0
5 Cal Poly SLO	18	7-6	3-1	71-67	2-8	63-70	3-1	0-0	1-0	3-5	5 Pacific	12	10-5	4-1	75-65	2-5	62-68	4-1	0-0	1-0	3-3
4 CS Fullerton	16	7-6	3-2	72-75	1-5	81-82	0-5	0-0	0-1	5-0	4 Penn	23	6-7	0-3	58-69	0-7	58-71	0-0	1-2	0-0	5-2
3 CS Northridge	17	9-8	2-4	77-79	2-6	71-79	2-3	0-1	0-0	4-4	5 Penn State	19	7-8	3-5	65-67	0-4	50-69	3-3	1-1	0-0	2-2
4 Cent. Michigan	18	11-6	4-2	71-71	1-6	65-74	3-1	1-1	0-1	5-1	5 Pepperdine	20	8-5	4-4	64-64	2-4	64-71	2-2	3-0	1-0	2-3
4 Charlotte	9	9-5	6-1	72-65	2-2	60-69	4-3	0-0	1-0	1-2	6 Pittsburgh	1	6-8	5-2	72-62	3-1	65-55	2-5	0-0	1-2	1-0
4 Cincinnati	1	8-8	5-3	66-58	4-1	68-60	1-7	0-0	2-1	2-0	4 Portland	20	5-10	2-3	56-61	1-7	55-70	1-1	1-2	0-1	2-5
6 Clemson	9	9-4	3-3	65-58	2-2	60-61	3-2	0-1	2-0	1-1	4 Princeton	11	5-6	2-3	60-57	3-2	61-60	1-4	0-0	1-0	3-1
4 Cleveland St.	21	6-12	4-2	65-63	1-9	56-75	2-0	2-2	1-1	0-8	5 Providence	10	7-6	4-3	69-65	1-4	66-70	3-2	2-0	0-2	1-1
5 Colorado	7	9-7	5-1	79-64	2-5	61-68	3-3	0-0	1-1	2-3	5 Purdue	10	8-10	8-3	68-56	2-2	61-62	5-4	1-1	1-1	1-1
7 Colorado St.	4	8-7	7-0	75-61	2-4	64-65	4-3	0-0	0-1	2-3	4 Rhode Island	15	8-7	3-4	60-56	2-4	65-73	1-2	2-2	0-0	3-3
3 Columbia	14	4-3	1-2	67-64	3-1	67-60	1-2	0-0	2-0	1-1	2 Rice+	25	5-6	0-3	55-72	0-5	57-74	0-0	1-2	0-0	3-2
5 Connecticut	6	6-7	4-1	73-65	1-2	67-70	2-2	0-1	0-0	2-1	5 Richmond	12	4-12	7-2	75-65	2-5	62-71	3-6	0-0	1-1	0-5
4 Cornell	19	3-7	1-3	63-66	0-4	49-73	1-1	0-2	0-0	1-3	5 Rutgers	9	8-7	5-3	66-66	3-3	65-69	2-4	1-1	1-0	3-2
3 Creighton	-1	12-6	9-1	78-63	4-2	71-62	6-4	0-0	4-1	0-1	5 St. Bonaventure+	9	9-8	4-3	75-66	3-6	69-75	3-3	1-0	1-1	3-4
4 Dartmouth	26	1-4	0-2	66-73	0-3	50-70	0-1	1-0	0-0	0-3	4 St. John's	7	6-7	4-2	66-62	4-2	69-68	1-2	1-1	0-0	4-2
5 Dayton	7	10-8	8-3	75-62	1-3	69-71	5-5	0-1	0-0	3-1	4 Saint Joseph's	7	7-7	3-3	70-65	3-3	69-69	2-4	0-0	3-1	1-1
4 Delaware	13	7-8	3-2	72-65	3-5	67-74	1-4	0-0	2-0	2-3	5 Saint Louis	7	7-9	9-2	67-55	1-2	63-65	5-6	0-0	1-0	0-2
6 Denver	8	8-9	6-2	69-53	3-6	55-58	5-2	0-1	1-0	2-6	5 Saint Mary's	3	9-8	8-0	78-63	4-2	73-67	3-5	0-0	3-1	2-0
4 DePaul	12	8-7	5-4	77-67	3-1	80-77	4-4	1-0	0-0	3-1	5 San Diego	16	9-7	5-2	69-64	3-4	60-63	4-3	0-0	1-0	3-3
5 Detroit	9	5-9	7-2	81-71	1-6	70-72	1-6	1-0	1-2	2-1	3 San Diego St.	3	8-6	3-2	72-68	5-1	65-58	2-2	0-1	3-2	1-0
5 Drake	14	8-9	4-4	73-73	2-4	68-79	1-2	2-3	0-0	3-3	5 San Francisco	15	10-5	4-3	71-69	0-4	63-70	4-1	1-1	0-0	2-2
5 Drexel	15	4-14	1-5	65-69	5-4	61-60	0-4	1-1	1-3	2-3	4 San Jose State	19	8-7	3-3	65-69	4-4	64-67	1-2	1-2	0-0	6-2
5 Duke	-2	10-8	10-0	80-58	0-2	70-87	4-6	0-0	0-2	0-0	4 Santa Clara	10	7-9	5-4	74-71	5-2	78-70	2-6	0-1	2-2	3-0
4 Duquesne	20	4-11	4-4	68-72	1-5	70-78	1-2	2-3	0-1	1-4	4 Seattle	17	9-5	2-5	71-73	2-5	63-70	2-0	1-4	0-0	6-1
5 East Carolina	15	6-5	4-0	84-77	2-5	71-77	2-2	0-0	0-0	4-3	5 Seton Hall	12	6-5	3-2	64-57	2-3	69-75	3-1	0-1	1-0	2-1
4 E. Michigan	18	9-6	5-2	58-53	0-8	51-73	2-2	3-0	0-0	4-4	5 SMU	15	9-9	5-3	65-59	3-4	63-65	4-1	1-1	2-1	1-3
5 Evansville	10	10-7	7-2	68-62	2-6	64-70	4-4	1-0	0-1	5-2	5 South Alabama	13	8-7	2-3	62-60	5-3	76-75	2-2	1-0	2-1	3-2
6 Florida	-5	10-4	7-0	77-53	5-2																

NBA SPREAD CATEGORY ANALYSIS 2012-13 SEASON

ATLANTA					MIAMI				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
4-0	1-3	1-4	1-3	7-10	1-0	-	5-4	5-5	11-9
1-0	0-3	-	-	1-3	-	-	-	-	0-0
4-3	2-1	0-1	-	6-5	1-4	3-4	2-0	0-2	6-10
1-2	0-2	2-2	1-0	4-6	2-1	-	-	-	2-1
BOSTON					MILWAUKEE				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
2-2	2-4	3-3	0-1	7-10	1-2	3-1	3-3	-	7-6
1-2	-	-	-	1-2	0-3	1-2	-	-	1-5
1-3	1-3	-	-	2-6	3-0	0-2	-	-	3-2
2-3	1-1	1-3	-	4-7	2-1	6-2	1-2	1-0	10-5
BROOKLYN					MINNESOTA				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
0-1	4-3	4-6	1-0	9-10	4-2	2-1	1-3	-	7-6
3-0	0-1	-	-	3-1	1-1	1-2	-	-	2-3
2-0	2-1	0-1	-	4-2	0-1	1-0	-	-	1-1
3-2	2-2	0-2	1-1	6-7	2-5	0-1	6-3	0-2	8-11
CHARLOTTE					NEW ORLEANS				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
1-4	-	-	-	1-4	1-1	1-2	1-0	-	3-3
0-5	2-3	4-2	0-1	6-11	2-4	1-3	3-2	-	6-9
-	-	-	-	0-0	-	-	-	-	0-0
-	1-0	4-4	3-6	8-10	2-0	3-0	5-2	4-4	14-6
CHICAGO					NEW YORK				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
2-1	2-5	1-6	0-3	5-15	2-1	4-1	2-4	2-3	10-9
1-3	-	-	-	1-3	-	1-0	-	-	1-0
4-2	0-1	-	-	4-3	1-5	1-1	3-1	-	5-7
3-2	1-1	2-1	-	6-4	2-0	2-2	1-0	-	5-2
CLEVELAND					OKLAHOMA CITY				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
0-3	1-1	-	-	1-4	-	2-1	3-1	9-6	14-8
0-5	3-3	1-0	-	4-8	-	-	-	-	0-0
-	-	-	-	0-0	2-4	7-2	2-1	0-1	11-8
3-0	1-3	5-7	5-1	14-11	0-1	-	-	-	0-1
DALLAS					ORLANDO				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
-	3-2	3-3	1-0	7-5	2-3	0-1	0-2	-	2-6
2-2	1-2	-	-	3-4	3-2	2-3	0-3	1-0	6-8
1-0	1-2	-	-	2-2	0-1	-	-	-	0-1
4-1	2-4	1-2	4-1	11-8	2-2	2-3	4-0	5-0	13-5
DENVER					PHILADELPHIA				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
4-1	2-0	1-2	4-4	11-7	2-6	3-2	1-1	-	6-9
1-0	-	-	-	1-0	3-1	1-1	-	-	4-2
3-2	2-3	-	-	5-5	2-0	0-1	-	-	2-1
5-1	1-2	2-4	-	8-7	1-2	2-4	3-4	0-2	6-12
DETROIT					PHOENIX				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
1-5	2-1	1-2	-	4-8	1-5	1-3	2-0	-	4-8
3-2	2-2	1-1	-	6-5	1-2	1-3	1-1	-	3-6
2-0	-	-	-	2-0	2-0	-	-	-	2-0
0-2	2-1	5-3	1-3	8-9	2-3	1-1	4-3	2-3	9-10
GOLDEN STATE					PORTLAND				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
4-1	3-0	0-2	1-1	8-4	4-2	0-2	1-4	-	5-8
3-4	1-0	-	-	4-4	3-1	2-0	1-0	-	6-1
0-1	1-2	-	-	1-3	0-2	-	-	-	0-2
3-0	3-1	4-3	1-1	11-5	3-2	1-4	4-2	1-1	9-9
HOUSTON					SACRAMENTO				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
4-3	2-2	4-1	1-1	11-7	3-4	0-1	0-1	-	3-6
-	2-1	0-1	-	2-2	4-3	1-3	0-1	-	5-7
0-1	1-2	0-1	-	1-4	1-0	-	-	-	1-0
2-2	3-2	2-4	0-1	7-9	1-1	0-2	5-5	2-3	8-11
INDIANA					SAN ANTONIO				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
2-1	4-1	3-3	0-2	9-7	-	1-3	7-2	4-3	12-8
2-0	0-1	-	-	2-1	-	-	-	-	0-0
5-1	1-0	1-1	-	7-2	2-1	5-3	3-3	1-0	11-7
0-5	3-3	1-2	0-1	4-11	0-3	0-1	-	1-0	1-4
L.A. CLIPPERS					TORONTO				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
1-0	3-0	5-2	5-6	14-8	3-3	3-0	1-1	-	7-4
1-1	-	-	-	1-1	0-2	5-0	1-1	-	6-3
3-5	2-1	2-1	-	7-7	-	-	-	-	0-0
2-1	1-1	-	-	3-2	4-2	1-4	2-4	2-3	9-13
L.A. LAKERS					UTAH				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
0-1	3-2	5-4	2-2	10-9	2-2	1-1	5-3	-	8-6
0-2	0-1	-	-	0-3	3-0	1-0	-	-	4-0
3-1	1-2	0-1	-	4-4	3-3	1-0	-	-	4-3
0-4	0-4	1-1	1-0	2-9	3-2	2-3	1-3	0-3	6-11
MEMPHIS					WASHINGTON				
1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL	1-3'	4-6	6'-9	9+	TOTAL
1-1	4-1	4-4	3-3	12-9	1-1	0-1	-	-	1-2
1-0	-	-	-	1-0	3-4	3-1	1-1	2-0	9-6
4-2	3-0	0-2	-	7-4	-	-	-	-	0-0
2-2	2-2	-	-	4-4	0-1	2-1	5-1	8-3	15-6
TOTAL					TOTAL				
HOME FAVORITE	53-56	57-45	67-71	39-43	216-215	HOME FAVORITE	53-56	57-45	67-71
HOME DOG	42-49	31-35	13-13	3-1	89-98	HOME DOG	42-49	31-35	13-13
ROAD FAVORITE	49-42	35-31	13-13	1-3	98-89	ROAD FAVORITE	49-42	35-31	13-13
ROAD DOG	56-53	45-57	71-67	43-39	215-216	ROAD DOG	56-53	45-57	71-67

KEY: HCV—Home Court Value. CR—Current 2012-13 Rating. HOME FAV—Points spread record as home favorite. HOME DOG—Points spread record as home dog. AWAY FAV—Points spread record as road favorite. AWAY DOG—Points spread record as road dog. PF—Average points For. PA—Average points Against. Average scores do not contain points scored during overtime periods. ALL TEAMS MEASURED FROM A TOP RATING OF ZERO. Team with an R of 4 would be a 7-point favorite over team with an 11 R on a neutral floor. Give allotted points for HCV to home team. Teams with a bold + or - have had their rating moved 2 or more points for the better (+) or worse (-), since last week. **Allow one extra point for a rested team facing an unrested team.**

Records & avg. scores through Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013.

HCV/TEAM	CR	HOME FAV	HOME DOG	AWAY FAV	AWAY DOG	PICK	HOME PF-PA	AWAY PF-PA
3 Atlanta	13/16*	7-10	1-3	6-5	4-6	0-0	98-95	92-94
2 Boston	10	7-10	1-2	2-6	4-7	0-0	94-91	92-98
3 Brooklyn/NJ	8	9-10	3-1	4-2	6-7	0-0	97-93	93-93
1 Charlotte	18	1-4	6-11	0-0	8-10	0-0	96-102	92-103
2 Chicago	9/12*	5-15	1-3	4-3	6-4	0-0	91-88	95-94
2 Cleveland+	16	1-4	4-8	0-0	14-11	0-0	93-97	96-102
3 Dallas	9	7-5	3-4	2-2	11-8	0-0	102-99	95-101
3 Denver	8	11-7	1-0	5-5	8-7	0-0	106-98	99-101
3 Detroit	15	4-8	6-5	2-0	8-9	0-0	96-93	91-96
3 Golden St.	8	8-4	4-4	1-3	11-5	0-0	100-95	100-101
4 Houston	13	11-7	2-2	1-4	7-9	0-0	108-102	100-103
3 Indiana	9	9-7	2-1	7-2	4-11	0-0	93-86	88-91
4 LA Clippers	6/8*	14-8	1-1	7-7	3-2	0-0	104-93	98-93
2 LA Lakers	9/12*	10-9	0-3	4-4	2-9	0-0	102-97	103-106
3 Memphis	6	12-9	1-0	7-4	4-4	0-0	92-87	93-91
1 Miami	5	11-9	0-0	6-10	2-1	0-0	104-96	98-97
2 Milwaukee	13	7-6	1-5	3-2	10-5	0-0	98-99	95-96
2 Minnesota	17	7-6	2-3	1-1	8-11	0-0	95-92	94-99
2 N. Orleans	11	3-3	6-9	0-0	14-6	0-0	91-95	95-98
3 New York	8	10-9	1-0	5-7	5-2	0-0	102-95	100-97
4 Okla. City	4	14-8	0-0	11-8	0-1	0-0	107-96	102-97
2 Orlando	15	2-6	6-8	0-1	13-5	0-0	95-98	94-98
3 Philadelphia	15	6-9	4-2	2-1	6-12	0-0	94-97	91-97
3 Phoenix	16	4-8	3-6	2-0	9-10	0-0	95-95	95-103
3 Portland	13	5-8	6-1	0-2	9-9	0-0	98-96	92-99
2 Sacramento	15	3-6	5-7	1-0	8-11	0-0	101-104	92-101
4 San Antonio	4/7*	12-8	0-0	11-7	1-4	0-0	105-92	101-98
4 Toronto	15	7-4	6-3	0-0	9-13	0-0	96-92	96-103
4 Utah	11	8-6	4-0	4-3	6-11	0-0	102-95	95-100
2 Washington	13	1-2	9-6	0-0	15-6	0-0	93-95	86-95

*-Adjust ratings for Atl C Horford, Chi F Deng, LAC G Paul, LAL C Howard, & San F Duncan.

NBA OVER-UNDER RESULTS, STRAIGHT-UP HOME & AWAY RECORDS AND SPREAD RECORDS AFTER A WIN OR LOSS & IN 2ND OF BACK-TO-BACK GAMES

The following are each team's totals (over-under) results at home and away, straight-up records home and away, and each team's points spread mark in the game immediately following a straight-up win or loss. Key: SUR—Straight-Up Record, PSR—Points spread Record. BACK-TO-BACK—Spread Record in 2nd or 3rd night of back-to-back games. **Through Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013.**

	OVER-UNDER		SUR	SUR	PSR	PSR	BACK-TO-BACK		
	HOME	AWAY	HOME	ROAD	WIN	LOSS	HOME	ROAD	TOTAL
Atlanta	13-8	8-13	14-7	10-11	8-15	10-8	4-3	3-2	7-5
Boston	10-11	8-11	13-8	7-13	5-13	9-11	2-0	2-5	4-5
Brooklyn	12-11	6-13	16-7	10-9	16-9	5-11	2-1	1-6	3-7
Charlotte	12-11	9-10	5-18	5-14	2-8	12-17	1-3	3-4	4-7
Chicago	6-18	10-7	13-11	12-5	7-17	9-7	2-3	2-2	4-5
Cleveland	7-10	15-11	5-12	6-20	3-7	15-16	0-4	5-3	5-7
Dallas	12-7	14-9	11-8	7-16	9-8	13-11	0-1	5-4	5-5
Denver	9-10	15-10	16-3	10-15	14-11	11-7	1-0	6-3	7-3
Detroit	10-13	9-10	12-11	4-15	6-10	14-11	1-3	4-2	5-5
Golden St.	12-7	12-9	14-6	12-9	12-12	11-4	2-2	4-2	6-4
Houston	13-9	11-11	14-8	8-14	15-6	5-16	1-3	3-6	4-9
Indiana	6-12	9-15	16-3	10-14	9-17	12-4	4-1	3-5	7-6
LA Clippers	15-9	8-10	19-5	13-6	21-11	3-7	2-2	2-4	4-6
LA Lakers	10-11	12-8	12-10	5-15	7-10	9-14	0-0	3-4	3-4
Memphis	7-15	6-12	16-6	11-8	16-10	8-6	0-1	5-2	5-3
Miami	10-10	8-11	17-3	10-9	12-14	6-6	0-1	3-2	3-3
Milwaukee	9-9	8-11	11-9	11-9	9-12	11-6	0-4	2-2	2-6
Minnesota	8-10	11-10	11-7	6-15	8-9	9-12	1-0	4-5	5-5
New Orleans	9-12	13-8	7-14	7-14	7-7	15-11	0-1	5-4	5-5
New York	11-9	9-9	14-6	11-8	11-14	9-4	1-1	3-3	4-4
Okla. City	13-9	9-11	19-3	14-7	18-15	7-2	1-1	3-4	4-5
Orlando	13-9	10-8	8-14	6-13	7-7	13-13	0-1	3-1	3-2
Philadelphia	15-5	7-13	11-10	6-15	8-9	9-15	0-2	2-8	2-10
Phoenix	5-14	11-10	10-11	4-17	5-8	12-16	0-3	3-3	3-6
Portland	9-13	10-9	14-8	7-13	8-11	11-9	1-1	5-3	6-4
Sacramento	15-8	11-9	12-11	4-16	7-9	9-15	1-0	3-4	4-4
San Antonio	7-14	13-11	19-2	15-9	18-13	6-5	1-0	4-3	5-3
Toronto	8-12	15-7	11-9	4-18	8-7	14-12	4-0	4-2	8-2
Utah	8-10	12-12	14-4	9-15	11-11	10-9	1-1	3-5	4-6
Washington	11-7	6-15	6-13	3-18	8-1	17-12	2-1	7-1	9-2
TOTALS	305-313	305-313	380-247	247-380	295-311	304-297	35-44	105-104	140-148