

# GOLDSHEET

Wednesday, February 12

## Recommended Wagers

#501 / 502 Celtics vs Spurs Over 233.5 | #715 VCU -9.5 at George Washington  
#527 Golden State Warriors -5.5 at Dallas Mavericks | #731 Xavier -2.5 at Providence  
#529 Memphis Grizzlies +4.5 at LA Clippers | #743 / 744 Okla. vs Mizzou Over 151

### #501 San Antonio Spurs at #502 Boston Celtics

**Analysis:** San Antonio plays the last of a six-game road trip in Boston tonight taking on the Celtics. They've gone 2-3 straight up but just 1-4 ATS with the Celtics winning and covering in three of their last four games. Both Jaylen Brown and Jrue Holiday missed the team's 103-85 win at Miami last time out with Holiday already ruled out for this matchup and Brown heading in questionable. Oddly enough, Boston hasn't won a home game this month playing in four road games and dropping their only home game 127-120 to Dallas six days ago. Our power ratings favor Boston here but with the possibility of Holiday and Brown sitting again, we're going to side with an "over" play with these two combining to go 22-12 to the "over" in non-conference games on the season. The Spurs have gone "over" in all four games which De'Aaron Fox has been active for after being traded with the Celtics going "over" in four of their last six games. Both teams rank top ten in offensive rating across their last ten games respectively which includes Jayson Tatum averaging 29 ppg this month so far. Last year while on Sacramento, Fox averaged 34.5 ppg in two games against Boston and without Holiday in the lineup for Boston, Fox could feast again. Take the "over" in tonight's non-conference showdown in Boston.

### #503 Indiana Pacers at #504 Washington Wizards

**Analysis:** Surprisingly, Washington's defense has performed quite well against the run-and-gun Pacers. Since the start of the 2022-23 season, Indiana is "only" averaging 120.1 points per game in eight meetings against the Wizards. Yes, that is still a very high number, but considering how the Pacers like to run their offense and how the Wizards defense has performed over the last three years, that did stand out to us a little bit. The season's first meeting between these teams stayed under the total by 22 points. Indiana is on the second leg of a back-to-back after falling against the Knicks on Tuesday. The Pacers shot 9-for-31 (29-percent) from three-point range in that contest. Pacers' center Myles Turner (15.1 points per game) is out for this one and will return to Indiana's lineup after the All-Star break.

### **#505 Charlotte Hornets at #506 Orlando Magic**

**Analysis:** Orlando has won-and-covered seven of the last eight meetings, including both of the first two this season. Neither team played on Tuesday, so both are on equal rest heading into this one. Charlotte's roster is being held together by toothpicks right now, but the Hornets keep covering spreads. Charlotte is still figuring out how to move forward after the failed trade to the Lakers involving center Mark Williams. Williams still has not re-joined the Hornets, and they will also be missing Josh Okogie and LaMelo Ball for this one. Moussa Diabate finished with a double-double against the Nets on Monday, but he's questionable with some vision issues after getting poked in the eye in that contest. With all of that being said, Charlotte is still 12-7-2 against the spread in its last 21 games, including 6-1 ATS as a double-digit 'dog. Both teams are in the bottom-third of the league in pace of play, making the 'dog even more attractive in a game with fewer possessions.

### **#507 Atlanta Hawks at #508 New York Knicks**

**Analysis:** The NBA schedule makers are really forcing the Knicks to earn their All-Star break this week. The Knicks will enter the lay-off after facing their three biggest current "rivals" - Boston, Indiana and Atlanta. New York got crushed by the Celtics over the weekend, but rebounded nicely with a 13-point road win at Indiana on Tuesday. Now on the second leg of a back-to-back, they get to face the biggest thorn in their side in recent years. Atlanta was on a three-game winning streak over the Knicks including a win in the NBA Cup elimination round, but New York got a little bit of revenge with a 119-110 home win last month. We've seen a strong adjustment in the totals in recent Hawks-Knicks matchups, and we're going to look at another "under" in Wednesday's meeting. When these teams first met in November, the closing total was 226.5. Since then, we've seen two games lined near 240 and the final scores have come nowhere near hitting that. We're looking in that direction once again. Atlanta has been scuffling around .500 for most of this season, but the Hawks probably haven't gotten enough credit for their improvement on defense this year. Atlanta was No. 27 in defensive efficiency last year, and the Hawks are up to No. 16 (and ahead of the Knicks) this year.

### **#527 Golden State Warriors at #528 Dallas Mavericks**

**Analysis:** Spirits couldn't be anymore down in Dallas. Since they traded Luka Doncic for Anthony Davis and Max Christie, Davis and Daniel Gafford went down with multi-week injuries, not to mention multiple protests going around American Airlines Center calling for ownership to sell the team. The cherry on top was a 129-128 home overtime loss to the Kings last time out as they host the Warriors tonight as 5-6 point underdogs. P.J. Washington is questionable heading into tonight with the Warriors at full strength aside from Jonathan Kuminga who has been out for a while now. They're 5-3 both straight up and ATS across their last eight games as they play the fifth of a seven game road trip. Our power ratings favor the Mavericks but with the injuries and the general aura around the team right now, we have to side with the road Warriors who have won their last two games as road favorites against the Bulls and Bucks. Golden State ranks second in points in the paint allowed per game and are also solid at defending the three-point shot so consistent offensive production could be limited outside of Kyrie Irving as Klay Thompson has averaged just 14 ppg this month so far. Take the Warriors to extend their winning streak to three by multiple baskets in Dallas tonight.

### **#529 Memphis Grizzlies at #530 Los Angeles Clippers**

**Analysis:** Memphis plays the second leg of a back-to-back to close out their first half at the Clippers tonight who play the first leg of a back-to-back with a game at Utah on deck for tomorrow. The Grizzlies won and covered as 3.5-point favorites at Phoenix last night and are 7-1 ATS off no rest this season. They'll be 4-5 point road underdogs for tonight and as an underdog on the road they're 9-6 ATS. The Clippers took down the Grizzlies 114-110 in Memphis back on Dec. 23rd so you know revenge will be on the mind for the Grizzlies as they look to maintain their second place standing in the Western Conference. Our power ratings slightly favor the Grizzlies which is the play we'll recommend here going 11-1 ATS with a rest disadvantage on the season. The Clippers are off a 130-110 home win against Utah but they're just 2-4 ATS across their last six games, all coming as favorites. Across their last ten games respectively, the Grizzlies rank fifth in offensive rating with the Clippers coming in 15th. On defense, both teams rank top six in defensive efficiency on the season, but if we look at their last five games respectively the Grizzlies come in sixth in defensive rating with the Clippers sitting 16th. It should be a competitive game in Memphis with no team missing key rotational players but the Grizzlies keep it within a bucket or two, covering as road underdogs in LA tonight.

### **#715 VCU at #716 George Washington**

**Analysis:** We played against George Washington on Sunday with St. Bonaventure, and we're going back to the well again for this one. If you would have told us before the game that George Washington was going to turn the ball over 20 times and shoot 5-for-21 (23.8-percent) from three-point range, we would have watched the game from the cashier's line waiting to turn in our winning ticket on the Bonnies. Sadly, that was not the case. We're going back to the well with VCU because the 20 turnovers that George Washington committed on Sunday is a major red flag in this matchup against the Rams. Credit the Revolutionaries' defense for what they did against the Bonnies, but where is the offense going to come from in this matchup? In the 15-team Atlantic-10, GW's offense is No. 14 in efficiency, No. 13 in effective field goal shooting, No. 14 in turnover rate, last in three-point shooting and No. 14 in free throw shooting. In conference play, the Revolutionaries are turning the ball over on 20.2-percent of their possessions. That is a recipe for disaster against the Rams' defense. VCU has had two extra days to rest and prep for this one after winning at Dayton on Friday. This is also a juicy revenge spot for VCU after losing to GW as a ten-point favorite last year. George Washington shot 56.2-percent from three-point range and 80.8-percent from the free throw line in that contest. If they can pull that off for a second time, then we simply have to tip our cap. Prior to that upset as a ten-point 'dog, VCU won the previous six meetings by an average of 17 points per game.

### **#725 Chattanooga at #726 Samford**

**Analysis:** Samford and Chattanooga are part of a three-way tie atop the SoCon standings with UNC-Greensboro. Samford has already beaten Greensboro and Chattanooga this season, so a second win over the Mocs could go a long way toward keeping the Bulldogs on top of the league via tiebreakers. The No. 1 seed in the SoCon Tournament has won the event in eight of the last 12 years. Samford won the first meeting 73-69 in Chattanooga, and we'll tip our cap to college basketball analyst Will Warren on some notes from that first contest. Samford plays at a frantic pace, looking to generate turnovers and explosive plays. The Bulldogs' defense is top-25 in the country at forcing steals and turnovers. In that first meeting, Chattanooga held Samford to a season-low in points off turnovers (six) and second-chance points (six). Chattanooga's offense is top-50 in the country in turnover rate, and the Mocs commit the fewest turnovers in the SoCon. That's the recipe for success against Samford. Chattanooga held a 16-point lead at the end of the first half, but the Mocs were ice-cold from three-point range. Chattanooga won the box score in every area except three-point shooting where the Mocs finished 5-for-26 (19.2-percent). Since the calendar flipped to 2025, the under is 11-1 in Samford's games. The Bulldogs are still winning and covering a lot of those, but teams in the SoCon have begun to adjust to Samford's frantic style and they are learning how to avoid the high-scoring shoot-outs with the Bulldogs.

### **#731 Xavier at #732 Providence**

**Analysis:** This is the type of game where Zach Freemantle can carry the Musketeers on his back. The 6-foot-9 senior has struggled a little bit in Big East play, but Xavier's go-to-guy should enjoy a very favorable matchup against the Friars. Providence head coach Kim English has been mixing-and-matching players at the center position all season. Saint Joe's transfer Christ Essandoko started seven games earlier this season, but he hasn't seen the floor in six games in Big East play and did not play in Sunday's loss to Butler. Freshman Oswin Erhunmwunse has taken some of those minutes, but he's far from a finished-product. Fellow freshman Ryan Mela has also bounced back-and-forth between the bench and starting lineup. Mela has scored a total of ten points in his last 81 minutes across five games. The best comparison to how Xavier uses Freemantle is probably Creighton's Ryan Kalkbrenner, who torched the Friars last week. Kalkbrenner finished with 35 points and 12 rebounds at Providence last week. Xavier has won at Providence each of the last two years, so we're not overly-concerned about the Musketeers making this trek. Providence has one win over a top-75 team this season: BYU on December 3. Meanwhile, Xavier has wins over Villanova, Marquette and UConn, plus overtime losses to both UConn and Saint John's. The Musketeers are on a tier above the Friars, in our opinion.

### **#743 Oklahoma at #744 Missouri**

**Analysis:** We're two-thirds of the way through the college basketball season, and most analysts are still trying to figure out who Oklahoma is. Entering their inaugural year in the SEC, the Sooners played a non-conference schedule that ranked outside the top-300, yet they won all of their marquee games (vs Providence, Arizona, Louisville and Michigan). Since the start of SEC play, Oklahoma has been involved in a number of blow-outs - Some in the Sooners' favor and some the other way. Seven of Oklahoma's last 12 games have been decided by at least 18 points. There are plenty of questions surrounding this team, but one thing is universally agreed upon: Someone needs to make some three-pointers against them. Oklahoma's opponents are shooting 28.8-percent from three-point range this season, which is roughly five percent below the national average. The Sooners allow a very high volume of three-point attempts, but opponents are simply missing them at an alarming rate. Will Missouri be the team that makes the Sooners pay? They certainly have a shot. The Tigers are shooting 38.6-percent from three-point range in SEC play while shooting the highest-volume of attempts. Missouri has been stuck in a weird part of the schedule with several games against slow-paced, defensive minded teams. Over the last two weeks, the Tigers have faced Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Tennessee and Texas A&M. Tennessee is No. 1 in the conference in defensive efficiency while playing at the slowest pace. Ole Miss and Texas A&M are No. 3 and No. 4 in defensive efficiency. This will be the first time in a while where the Tigers will be able to stretch their legs and run a little bit. Even though this game has a 9.5-point spread, we expect it to be competitive. Hopefully that keeps this game flowing in a positive direction for 40 minutes, and doesn't become a 20-point blow-out like Oklahoma has been involved in several times over the last month.