

A TOP TEN MENU FOR BEATING COLLEGE FOOTBALL

With another college football season heading straight at us, it might be a good idea to form a checklist of the most important ingredients we should use in our "winners' recipe". While I'm more likely to head toward a Kenny Rodgers' Roaster rather than a Colonel Sanders' grease pit, here are some key menu items that should deep fry your "man" by the end of the college season. Let's count down the most important items on my menu from ten to one. In the end, I hope to whet your appetite for winning!

10. **SERIES HISTORY** – I don't like using **SALT** at all but sometimes you have to. In this case, take **SERIES HISTORY** with a grain of salt! If a team has averaged a 52-6 win per game over an opponent over the last 3 years, it doesn't mean there will be a blowout this year. If one team has covered 9 of the last 10 in the series, don't think for a minute this team has a 90 percent chance of covering against the opponent this year. If anything, there is probably less than a 50 percent chance the team will keep the trend going. Rule 10, in other words, says to basically ignore series trends when it comes down to the final analysis. **TIP:** Use a salt substitute.
9. **LETDOWNS** – If you must drink, please consider teams that are **DRUNK WITH VICTORY!** What you are looking for here is a team that is so high after winning a big game, it may have an incredible hangover the next week – a letdown. Look for games in which one team wins by 30 or more points over another. Even the winner of a close game in a battle of Top 10 powers can suffer a letdown. Such victors often need an extra week to sober up. If you bet against them when they are still reeling from a big victory, you should win more bets than you lose. **TIP:** A before dinner drink works as an appetizer. An even better tip: don't drink!
8. **DON'T BE GREEDY** – If you like pork, please don't be one! Don't be a P-I-G by getting greedy when you go on a winning streak. Keep your head or you just may wind up on your bookies' rotisserie with an apple in your mouth and nothing in your poke. Be disciplined and by season's end, you'll bring home the bacon! **TIP:** Pork ain't all that good for you, know what I mean?
7. **STUDY THE SCHEDULE** – How can we tie in a meal ticket with this category? Easy. If you pay close attention to each team's schedule, you'll discover many **SANDWICH** situations as the season rolls along. When a team has an easy opponent in the middle of two tough customers, a letdown is very likely to occur. Here is an example of a sandwich situation from a few years ago. Notre Dame was coming off big wins over not one, but two opponents in Michigan and Michigan St. The Irish then faced Purdue before taking on Stanford in a revenge game – a near perfect sandwich situation and a bet **ON** Purdue was called for. Hopefully, the Boilermakers (not to be confused with category #9) would not wind up being full of bolony. In horrible weather, Notre Dame won the game 17-0, but did not cover the spread. They were laying 17 ½ !

Nevertheless, it was a spread victory for backers of the sandwich situation.
TIP: The best sandwich for you is one without meat – an avacado sandwich!

- 6. HAVE MULTIPLE OUTS** – Whether you are looking for the best in pointspread value or the best buy in a super market, you must **SHOP AROUND!** Whether it be a succulent o\cut of filet mignon or the only –6 ½ in town, please get the best of the price whatever you do. Have more than one outlet or if you live in Vegas hit the streets and shop for value. Whether it be a big steak or a big STAKE, you won't suffer from indigestion nearly as much if you get a good deal at a price you can afford. **TIP:** Look for sales in you daily newspaper.
- 5. REVENGE** – This is one of the best items in a handicappers' menu. After losing to certain opponents, teams will circle those teams on their schedule the following season. The lambs one year will turn into lions the next as their opponents could end up being "dead meat". Maybe we should change the word "meat" to "meet". Okay, the next time the two teams meet, the avenger will satisfy its appetite for revenge. Good teams are much more likely to extract revenge than bad ones. Be sure to chart **COACHES** who are able to motivate their teams into devouring moods in revenge situations. **TIP:** Man has the teeth of a vegetable eater. A tiger has the teeth of a meet eater. Unfortunately, I still eat meat!
- 4. BET AGAINST THE PUBLIC** – Now we turn to the poultry part of our menu. The public as a rule is **CHICKEN**. These "squares" are too gutless when it comes to forming their own, solid opinions. They would rather follow the advice of friends, the press, their hearts and the toss of a dart rather than do the work necessary to derive a winning selection. Whenever you find yourself on the same side as John Q. Public, take a second look. Remember, the public is wrong much more often than it is right. Occasionally, the squares bring home a victory but it far better to follow the **ROAD LESS TRAVELED** – and that will make all the difference. By the way, these squares are not only chicken but turkeys as well! **TIP:** Turkey is better for you than chicken. Believe it.
- 3. STUDY SUNDAY MORNING BOX SCORES** – That's right, go on a Sunday picnic and pack yourself a **BOX LUNCH**. I don't care what you eat as long as you digest approximately **40 COLLEGE GAMES** which include an assortment of first downs, rushing attempts, rushing yards, passing attempts, passing yards, total yards and for dessert –**TURNOVERS** (cherry apple or peach will be fine). If you have a computer, feed the stats into it and if you don't, follow a handicapper that does – such as me, for example (deplorable plug). **TIP:** Desserts should be eaten alone – not after a meal. Okay, don't do as I say!
- 2. HAVE A BANKROLL** – You got it! You must have your own money from which to bet. Some of us refer to this as **BREAD, DOUGH OR LETTUCE**. I'm not concerned with what you call it, only that you have it. Playing on pure credit will kill you in more ways than one. **BET MORE WHEN WINNING – LESS WHEN LOSING**. Most people do it in reverse. They get timid when on a

winning streak and become compulsively bold when trying to get their money back. **TIP:** Whenever you want to put on weight, eat bread. The reverse also holds true.

- 1. MAKE YOUR OWN LINE** – This will always be numero uno on my handicapping menu. Why? Because it is a combination of everything I've been talking about and then some. Friends, feast your eyes on a **SMORGASBORD!** You can pick and choose because you will know when to bet and when to pass. When you study your box scores, you will be analyzing **STATISTICS**. By studying these numbers, you'll get a feel for what the true line should be. Study the schedule and you'll find sandwich, revenge and letdown situations. These are your **EMOTIONAL** (intangible) factors. Make your own line each week and with practice, those value situations will pop out on you. Bet from your bankroll, have multiple outs and control your emotions. Well, there you have the Top Ten on my handicapping menu. Bon appetite! **TIP:** Diets don't work. Eat sensibly and above all – exercise!