

## CASE NFL: Three Plays

### **1. Steelers -14 hosting Seahawks**

If ever there were a kill spot this is it.

Pittsburgh is in a terrible mood after committing a franchise-worst seven turnovers in a humiliating loss to Baltimore last week. The Steelers have the perfect patsy to atone in their home opener.

Seattle could be the worst team in the NFL. Not only are the Seahawks bad, but they are banged-up, too. Their offensive line is in a state of flux with guard Robert Gallery missing last week and Sidney Rice, their best wide receiver, probably missing a second consecutive week.

The Steelers are more explosive than last year. They just didn't get to show it last week against the Ravens due to their turnovers. The Seahawks allowed 29.3 points per game during their road matchups last season.

Seattle is traveling from West to East. An early start time makes it even worse for the Seahawks, who are 2-8 ATS during their last 10 away matchups.

Since 2008, Seattle is 5-21 SU on the road with 20 of the 21 defeats occurring by double-digits.

So don't be shy about laying two touchdowns in this matchup. I can only see this line going up so I wouldn't wait to play. Get down on Pittsburgh now.

### **2. Packers -9.5 at Panthers**

Green Bay already is in mid-season form. The Panthers are rebuilding.

Cam Newton won't be nearly as effective against Green Bay's defense as he was against Arizona's. Newton has great potential, but is extremely raw. Green Bay's brilliant defensive coordinator Dom Capers will take advantage of this with assorted blitz schemes that will confuse and befuddle Newton.

Although Newton played well against Arizona, accuracy remains a huge issue with him. He completed just 42 percent of his throws in preseason.

The Packers have the deepest set of receiving weapons in the league. Carolina happens to have the worst cornerback depth in the league. Aaron Rodgers is going to produce another monster game.

The Panthers aren't helped by the fact that middle linebacker Jon Beason is out for the season.

The Packers have done the job when laying points covering eight of the past 10 times in that role. Carolina, on the other hand, has managed to cover only two of its last 10 games.

### **3. Cowboys -3 at 49ers**

The number is short considering the class difference between the two teams.

Dallas is far more explosive than San Francisco. Tony Romo commits too many costly turnovers to be an elite quarterback, but he's far superior than Alex Smith.

The Cowboys' biggest weakness is their secondary. The 49ers, though, are a conservative run-oriented team that can't take advantage of Dallas' weak spots. Smith is just a dink-and-dunk game manager.

Dallas has a balanced attack. The 49ers don't have enough secondary depth to keep Dez Bryant, Miles Austin, Jason Witten and Felix Jones all in check.

The 49ers are vulnerable right now learning a new system under first-year coach Jim Harbaugh. They were lucky to open at home against Seattle, one of the worst road teams in the NFL. Still, the 49ers needed two long touchdown returns from Ted Guinn before subduing Seattle.

I'm laying three early in the week because I see the number climbing to 3 1/2, so now is the time to get on the Cowboys.