

College Football Picks: Fresno State vs Rutgers

Contributed by Matt Foust
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The Fresno State Bulldogs will travel to the East Coast this weekend for a Monday afternoon battle with the Rutgers Scarlet Knights. The game, which will be broadcast on ESPN, is set to kick off at 4:30ET at Rutgers Stadium in New Brunswick, New Jersey. College football picks at SBGglobal.com have the home Scarlet Knights as a -5 favorite.

Fresno State Head Coach Pat Hill has done an amazing job in his 11 seasons at the school. He has accumulated an 85-55 record and taken the team to eight bowl games (4-4). Last year the Bulldogs went 9-4 and knocked off Georgia Tech 40-28 as a +6 underdog in the Humanitarian Bowl. Hill returns 10 starters from last year's offense and they should have no trouble piling up points as they averaged 32.8 per game in 2007. The defense brings back seven first teamers and they will need to improve on last year's averages. They yielded far too many yards on the ground (181 per game).

Greg Schiano enters his eighth season as the leader of the Scarlet Knights. Schiano sports a 38-46 record, but he has turned the program around and looks like he may have a perennial winner on his hands. Rutgers returns 15 starters from last season (8-5) and they will almost certainly see bowl action again in 2008. Last year they beat Ball State 52-30 in the International Bowl. The Scarlet Knights, like Fresno, scored 32.8 points per game last season. The big question mark they have this year offensively, is making up for the loss of running back Ray Rice. That will be no easy task.

The key match up will be how Fresno State's defensive front seven does against Rutgers offensive line. Last season the Bulldogs got ran over but they should be improved with some experienced guys returning. It will be interesting to see where the Rutgers ground attack is at without Rice in the picture. While the Bulldogs are not likely to be dominant up front, they should give the Scarlet Knight running game a good test.

SBGglobal.com's college football picks for Fresno State vs Rutgers:

Fresno State Bulldogs +5

Rutgers Scarlet Knights -5

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