

NFL Week 1 Picks: Houston Texans vs Pittsburgh Steelers

Contributed by Matt Foust
Sunday, 07 September 2008
Last Updated Thursday, 04 September 2008

The Pittsburgh Steelers are set to host the Houston Texans this Sunday, September 7th for their 2008 season opener. The game begins at 1:05pm ET and will be broadcast live on CBS. NFL Week 1 Picks at SBGglobal.com have the home team Steelers as a -6.5 favorite for the game.

The Steelers finished last season at 10-6 largely because they dominated the AFC North, going 5-1 in division play. They will look to continue that trend this season and they have some new weapons to help them do it in running back Rashard Mendenhall and receiver Limas Sweed. The offense averaged 24.6 points per game in 2007; they should increase that number this year if they can cut down on the number of sacks allowed. The Pittsburgh defense ranked number one last year, but they desperately need safety Troy Polamalu to return to health and word is that he will not see much action to start the season.

The Texans appear to have things going in the right direction under Head Coach Gary Kubiak. Last year the former Broncos offensive coordinator guided the franchise to its first eight win season. Unfortunately for Houston they play in one of the toughest divisions in football, so the playoffs may still be a couple of years away. They will make it interesting in the AFC South though, and the way they played last year will have the attention of their division rivals.

Key Matchup: The Steelers will need to slow down the Houston passing attack if they are to cover the spread in this game. Last year they held teams to just 177 yards passing per game, but stopping Andre Johnson and Kevin Walter will not be an easy assignment.

NFL Week 1 Trend: The under is 2-0 in the only meetings between these two teams.

SBGglobal.com's NFL Week 1 Picks for the Texans vs Steelers:

Texans +6.5, Over 43 (-110), +220 (Money line)

Steelers -6.5, Under 43 (-110), -260 (Money line)

Get on board for an entire season of NFL Picks; we are prepped and ready to storm through the 2008 NFL schedule.

Also, make sure you check out our live NFL Betting Odds feed which provides real time point spreads from the top internet sportsbooks in the world, all in one easy to use location. Get line moves in real time and find out which NFL teams have the best betting odds.