

## Chicago Bears vs Indianapolis Colts NFL Week 1 Picks

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The Chicago Bears will travel to Indianapolis this weekend to take on the Colts in a rematch of Super Bowl XLI. The game will be televised Sunday night on NBC and it will mark the debut Lucas Oil Stadium. NFL Week 1 Picks at BetUS.com have the Colts as a big -9.5 home favorite and the game total at 44.

Indianapolis looked the part of defending Super Bowl champion for most of the 2007 season. They finished 13-3 but were overshadowed by the Patriots quest for history. The Colts were ousted from the playoffs at home by a game Chargers squad and have probably been itching for the 2008 season to kick off since the conclusion of that contest.

The Colts return almost all of last year's starters and they should again be a formidable force in the AFC. They are starting to show a little age, but that should not keep Peyton Manning and company from posting big numbers this season. Their defense may actually be the strength of the team entering 2008 as they held teams to just 16.4 points per game last year.

The Bears finished a disappointing 7-9 last season and they have a number of question marks entering 2008. They gutted a non-productive offense this off-season but they did not address the quarterback position which has been a weak point for a few seasons now. They return just six starters from last year's group, but fourth year man, Kyle Orton, has been named the starting quarterback. Orton will be without the team's leading receivers from 2007, Muhsin Muhammad and Bernard Berrian.

Key Matchup: The Bears offense, if they are to have any chance at all in this game, will need to find some way to stay on the field. Their best chance is to run right at the Colts defense with new addition Kevin Jones. That will not be an easy assignment against a team that allowed just 107 yards per game on the ground, but it will slow the game down and allow the Bears defense to rest.

NFL Week 1 Trend: The Colts are 6-2-1 ATS the last five years as a home favorite in September games.

BetUS.com's NFL Week 1 Picks for the Bears vs Colts:

Bears +9.5 (-110), Over 44 (-110), +420 (Money line)

Colts -9.5 (-110), Under 44 (-110), -520 (Money line)

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