

MLB Predictions: Arizona at St. Louis

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MLB Predictions...Mathematically the Arizona Diamondbacks still have a chance to win the NL Western Division but with seven games left, those chances dwindle by the day. Monday, the Diamondbacks travel to the always difficult venue of Busch Stadium in St. Louis to open a three-game series with the Cardinals. With this being the final full week of the regular season, sweeping the Cardinals is almost a must if the Diamondbacks want to have any chance of catching the Los Angeles Dodgers.

[pictured: Diamondback's Brandon Webb looks to add No. 21 to his victory total today at St. Louis. Oddsmakers list Arizona as -120 money line favorites.]

Fortunately for Arizona, they have the right guy scheduled to take the mound for Monday's game in ace right hander Brandon Webb (21-7, 3.26 ERA). The NL wins leader is going for his 22nd victory in 2008. Countering for St. Louis is right hander Todd Wellemeyer (12-8, 3.66 ERA).

Oddsmakers at online sportsbook Bodog (Bodoglife.com) have installed Arizona as slight -120 money line favorites with a 7 ½ total. Cardinal's backers are getting +110 money line juice for this game.

Webb picked up his National League-leading 21st win of the season the last time out against the Giants at Chase Field, throwing seven innings, allowing three runs -- two earned -- on eight hits. He didn't know it at the time, but his second-inning two-run double proved to be pretty decisive in a 7-6 win. With two more starts left, Webb can tie Curt Schilling for the second-highest win total in a season in franchise history with 23.

Wellemeyer was done in by one ugly inning Wednesday in Cincinnati, pitching exceptionally well except for a three-homer fourth frame. He's looking to finish strong in his first full season as a Major League starter, and it's already fair to say the season has been a success. Wellemeyer leads the team in strikeouts and is going to top 180 innings likely with a sub-4.00 ERA. That's a pretty nice year.

Point-Spreads.com MLB Prediction...The Cardinals aren't going to make the playoffs and will be loose, trying to help Wellemeyer finish the season on a high note. The D-Backs will succumb to the pressure and fall. We like the Cardinals at Busch Stadium +110 money line.

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