MLB Picks: Cubs vs Pirates MLB Betting Odds - June 29, 2009

Contributed by Matt Foust
Monday, 29 June 2009
Last Updated Monday, 29 June 2009

MLB Picks: The floundering Cubs are in Pittsburgh this evening to take on their division rivals, the Pirates. The National League Central battle is set to begin at 7:05pm ET at PNC Park in the Keystone State. Online bookmaker Bodog.com has Chicago listed as a -112 moneyline favorite in their MLB Picks: Cubs vs Pirates MLB Betting Odds - June 29, 2009.

Chicago comes into tonight's game one contest reeling from a 2-1 series loss against the White Sox at U.S. Cellular Field. The Cubs, who are presently 35-37 on the year, have lost six of their last seven games on their current 10 game road swing. As a result, Lou Piniella's squad is in fourth place in the NL Central and 3.5 games behind the Cardinals and Brewers.

Chicago will send Rich Harden to the mound this evening hoping that the Canadian can duplicate the road form he has displayed all year. While the Cubs are just 2-2 in Harden's four away starts, the 27 year old has produced a 2.96 ERA and a .209 opponent batting average in opposing stadiums. On the year, the right-handed Harden is 4-4 with a 4.95 ERA in 11 starts.

The Pirates, who are coming off back to back home series wins versus the Indians and Royals, have won four of their last five games. Pittsburgh is still in their usual last place spot in the division standings, but they are clearly improved, as illustrated by their being a meager five games behind Milwaukee.

The Pirates will send their staff ace, Zach Duke, to the hill tonight. Duke is 8-5 through 15 starts and he possesses an impressive 3.09 ERA. The 26 year old Texas native has been even better at PNC Park, where he is 6-2 in eight starts with a 2.64 ERA. Pittsburgh is 5-0 in Duke's last five home outings and they have won by an average of five runs per game in that stretch.

While Duke's numbers and record are impressive at home, it should be noted that the Pirates are just 5-16 in their last 21 games against the Cubs. Additionally, Pittsburgh has won just two of their last nine versus Chicago at PNC Park.

Bodog.com MLB Picks: Cubs vs Pirates MLB Betting Odds - June 29, 2009

Chicago Cubs -1.5 (+140), Over 8 (+100), -112 (Moneyline)

Pittsburgh Pirates +1.5 (-160), Under 8 (-120), +102 (Moneyline)Bet on sports at online sportsbook Bodog.com and receive a 10% Deposit Bonus and start winning today!