

MLB Picks: Rays vs Blue Jays MLB Betting Odds - July 1, 2009

Contributed by Matt Foust
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MLB Picks: The red hot Tampa Bay Rays will go for the sweep this afternoon against the Toronto Blue Jays at the Rogers Centre. The Rays took both games one and two of the series by a score of 4-1. Tampa Bay is listed as a -124 moneyline favorite today in Sportsbook.com's MLB Picks: Rays vs Blue Jays MLB Betting Odds - July 1, 2009.

Tampa Bay won their seventh straight game yesterday behind a superior pitching performance from Matt Garza. The win improved the Rays to 44-35 overall and, after a slow start, they are now just four games back of the first place Red Sox. They have won nine of their last 10 games entering this afternoon's contest.

James Shields will be called upon today to duplicate the efforts that Garza and Jeff Niemann put together in games one and two. Those two combined to limit the Jays to 11 hits and two earned runs over 14.1 innings. Shields is certainly capable of holding Toronto in check and has done so in most of his starts against them. Over the last three seasons, the 27 year old California native is 4-2 in eight starts versus the Blue Jays with a 3.07 ERA. He is 0-1 in two starts at the Rogers Centre with a 3.52 ERA.

Toronto fell to 41-38 with yesterday's loss and their home record, while still impressive, dropped to 24-18. The Jays, who suffered through a nine game losing streak earlier this season, are currently mired in a four game skid. Their recent woes have them sitting seven games back of the Red Sox in the division standings.

The Blue Jays will look to rookie hurler Ricky Romero today to help them get back on the winning track. Romero is having an excellent maiden voyage thus far, going 5-3 in 10 starts with a 3.20 ERA. The left handed Los Angeles native has been particularly effective at the Rogers Centre, sporting a 4-1 record there in five starts with a 2.90 ERA. The Blue Jays have won four of Romero's last five appearances on the mound.

Today's game is scheduled to get underway at 1:07pm ET in Toronto's Rogers Centre.

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Tampa Bay Rays -1.5 (+130), Over 8.5 (+100), -124 (Moneyline)

Toronto Blue Jays +1.5 (-150), Under 8.5 (-120), +114 (Moneyline) Get a 100% Deposit Bonus at Sportsbook.com, simply use promo code WIN100 and start winning today!