Razorbacks To Face Upset-Minded LSU Tigers

Contributed by Benton Vale
Thursday, 23 November 2006
Last Updated Thursday, 23 November 2006

The LSU Tigers have plenty to play for when they travel to Little Rock, Arkansas to take on the No 5 Arkansas Razorbacks in War Memorial Stadium Friday at 2:30 p.m. in a game to be televised by CBS.

First of all, LSU is not out of the BCS bowl mix with only two losses to SEC powerhouse programs Auburn and Florida. But a loss to the Hogs would probably drop the Tigers to a lower tier bowl. Secondly, LSU would like nothing more than to put the only blemish on the SEC Western Division Champions conference record.

The LSU defense is dotted with stars, including All-America candidates, defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey, linebacker Ali Highsmith and safety LaRon Landry. It’s likely the best defense the Razorbacks will face this season.
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Arkansas offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn said he sees no weakness in a Tigers unit that leads the SEC and ranks third nationally in scoring defense (11.3 points per game). Of course the vaunted LSU defense hasn’t faced an offense with the likes of running backs Darren McFadden and Felix Jones in its backfield.

The game between LSU and Arkansas is listed as a pick-em after a -1.0-point opening chalk favoring the Razorbacks was set earlier in the week. The Razorbacks play very well in games played in Little Rock’s War Memorial Stadium going 20-1 in the Houston Nutt era (1998-to-present). The line loss was to LSU in 2004.
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LSU has won five games in a row SU since losing to Florida on the road on Oct 7. The only other blemish on the Tigers schedule in 2006 was also on the road in a 3-7 loss to Auburn back on Sep 16. The Tigers are 6-5 ATS this season and the OVER has covered in 6-of-11 LSU football games.

The Razorbacks have reeled off 10 straight wins SU and have covered five of their last six games ATS. The only recent non-cover came last Saturday at Mississippi State in what was considered a trap game situation. The same could be said for LSU’s narrow 23-20 SU win and non-cover -28.5 ATS against Ole Miss at home Saturday night.