LSU vs. Alabama College Football Picks

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LSU vs. Alabama College Football Picks: No. 3 ranked Alabama will try to hold off the hard charging No. 9 Tigers of LSU when the two SEC West rivals play a game at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Ala., with kickoff time for the CBS televised game set for 3:30 pm ET Saturday.

College football picks oddsmakers at SPORTSBETTING.COM list the Crimson Tide as 7 1/2-chalk favorites versus the Tigers with a 40 total.

After sputtering in the early going, it seems the LSU offense is starting to build up some steam and that's a good thing considering Tigers quarterback Jordan Jefferson will be leading his offense against the No. 4 best defense in America. The Tigers are coming off their best offensive outing of the season in their 42-0 win over Tulane on Halloween night in Death Valley.

Offensively, the Tigers are averaging 26.4 points and 325.1 yards per game. Jefferson has connected on 123 of 193 passes for 1,421 yards, 11 TDs and just four interceptions. Scott leads the Tigers ground attack with 459 yards and four scores, while Brandon LaFell (37 rec., 478 yards, 8 TDs) and Terrance Toliver (38 rec., 501 yards, 3 TDs) combine to form the league's top receiving tandem.

The Tide defense is allowing just 240.88 yards per game, but Alabama also ranks second in the country in pass efficiency defense, surrendering an 88.81 opponent passer rating. UA ranks tied for 14th nationally while leading the SEC in sacks with 2.88 per game. Defensive end Marcell Dareus leads the Tide with 4.5 (-32) while Javier Arenas and Eryk Anders are second with 4.0. Rolando McClain leads the Crimson Tide with 57 total tackles and 33 solo stops. He has 7.0 tackles for loss (-28), two sacks (-19), two interceptions, a pass breakup, a forced fumble and seven quarterback hurries. Terrence Cody boasts 17 tackles, including 5.0 tackles for loss (-10) a pass breakup and two quarterback hurries.

Greg McElroy has been impressive in his first eight games as the Crimson Tide’s starting quarterback, completing 60.0 percent (121 of 202) of his passes for 1,445 yards and nine touchdowns with only three interceptions. Julio Jones, has 20 receptions for 229 yards, an 11.4 yards per catch average and one touchdown.

Tiger coach Les Miles has won four road games over top 10-ranked SEC teams in his five years with the Tigers. Miles is 4-3 overall vs. top 10-ranked teams in road games at LSU. The wins have come over Alabama (2005), Tennessee (2006), Arkansas (2006) and Auburn (2008).

College Football Pick: This game will be all about defense and while LSU is good and talented, the Tide rules in this category. Alabama should pull this game out but look for LSU to keep it close and cover as a +7 1/2-dog.

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