

GAME DAY:

Sports Staff Picks



Lupo



Toomer



Fitts

FLORIDA AT TENNESSEE

Lupo: Florida head coach Steve Spurrier has stepped in and implemented the same high-powered offense that turned Duke into winners almost overnight. This should prove to be a classic, hard fought grudge match. The fifth ranked Vols haven't missed a beat since the season ending injury to running back Chuck Webb. The Gators come into Knoxville and 95,000-

seat Neyland Stadium, with thoughts of a mild upset, but Tennessee brings too many weapons and should stifle Spurrier's offensive scheme. Florida loses their first of the season by less than a touchdown in a physical contest.

Toomer: Tennessee has been playing extremely good football despite two ties with No. 6 Auburn and No. 14 Colorado and without star running back Chuck

Webb. Tennessee could very well be unbeaten, untied and the number one ranked team in the country. Steve Spurrier has taken his former Blue Devils' "air ball" philosophy to his alma mater at Florida and has them playing good, sound and exciting football. However, the Gators untarnished 5-0 record will fall on Saturday when they march into Knoxville and lose their first SEC game in front of 95,000 screaming fans.

Tennessee 31, Florida 17.

Fitts: Look for a very tight game. The Gators are for real and Steve Spurrier's offensive game plan will definitely be up to the challenge of the Volunteers. Tennessee will be tough to beat in front of a home crowd of 95,000, but I think that Florida should prove that their unbeaten mark is no no fluke.

Florida in an upset, 24-21.

GIANTS AT WASHINGTON

Lupo: While there's been a lot of talk about the Giant defense, when half of your schedule thus far consists of the Dallas Cowboys, that's hardly an accurate assessment of defensive strength. The true test comes this weekend when the Giants visit the nation's capital, and must contend with "The Posse", Gary Clark, Art Monk, and Ricky Sanders, unarguably the finest receiving corps in the game. Lawrence Taylor and the rest of the Giants defensive crew must pressure second-string quarterback Stan Humphries this Sunday. If they don't, The Posse will enjoy a field day in front of yet another sold-out crowd at RFK Stadium.

Redskins by ten or more, in a surprisingly easy victory.

Toomer: The Giants are playing great football. The

defense is in rare form. The linebacking corps of Lawrence Taylor, Carl Banks and Pepper Johnson are playing as well as they did during the '86-'87 season when they won Super Bowl XXI. The Redskins are also playing well and tend to play even better when playing at RFK. Look for the the crowd noise to be a factor as the receiving trio of Ricky Sanders, Art Monk and Gary Clark, coupled with the running of Ernest Byner and Gerald Riggs cause this superb Giants defense some problems.

Redskins 24, Giants 21.

Fitts: I think the Giants are the toughest team in football right now. The offense is clicking, and the defense is as tough as ever. Despite the fact the Redskins are at home, the Giants have too much defense for

Clark, Monk and Sanders. Giants in a blowout, 35-17.

Petty cherishes family ties

Murray Glenn The Pendulum

Kyle Petty has a unique job. For 29 weekends a year, it is his job to push his race car to the outer edge of its potential while competing against forty other drivers with the same goal.

Kyle's family has deep ties to NASCAR racing. Both his grandfather, Lee Petty, and his father Richard have made names for themselves as drivers. Richard has won 200 races in his thirty year career as a driver. "If there were ever any parental pressure not to get involved, they knew it would be a long road, considering all of the money that it takes to get a team started," Kyle said.

Over the course of his eleven year driving career, Kyle has won three Winston Cup races and over \$2.5 million in earnings. His most recent win was at the Goodwrench 500 on March 4 in Rockingham, N.C.

Pendulum: Is there any parallel to hitting a wall at 150 m.p.h.?

Petty: When you take a blow in one of these race cars it is like nothing that you have ever done before. As a matter of fact, it is like nothing that the average person will ever experience. As a driver, you are strapped so tightly into the car, that when you wake up the morning after hitting the

wall, you are sore in parts of the body that you did not even realize you have. Oftentimes it is very difficult to get out of the bed on Monday morning after wrecking the previous day.

Pendulum: Is NASCAR racing a sport?

Petty: Each sport requires different pieces of equipment. I consider all of the driver athletes. They can easily hold their own in other sporting events.

Pendulum: Considering the high expenses that it takes to drive in today's world, how does a racing team go about making money?

Petty: It is hard to make money in this sport, considering you spend somewhere in the neighborhood of \$250,000 to \$300,000 on tires during the course of the year. Most teams spend \$600,000 to \$700,000 on engines. It is possible for a team to go through a three to four million dollar budget over the course of a year.

Most all teams use sponsorship money to pay their expenses. A good sponsorship deal can bring in two or three million dollars for the team.

An ideal situation is to have intake, where sponsorship dollars, prize money and endorsement deals bring in four to five million dollars. Then there is an opportunity to make

some money. There are probably three or four teams on the circuit that annually make money. It is easier for drivers to make money because they do not have any outlay. They just drive the cars for a percentage of the winnings.

Pendulum: Can the sport survive a ban on alcohol advertising?

Petty: Yes, I believe it could survive as well as any other sport could. I think alcohol and tobacco producers had all of their advertising rights taken away from them so they turned to sports where they have more punch per dollar than any other avenue of advertising. If you take away these companies, you will be left with plenty of reptile businesses like Kodak, Mello-Yello and Motocraft as significant contributors to the sport.

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sudden on an academic kick, let's put all of this into perspective. Harvard should be a worthy opponent. MIT looks pretty good, too. Columbia - hey, that's an academically renowned institution.

How about North Carolina? There's a school with nationally recognized academics.

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