

Louisville vs Ole Miss

A designed betting-desk report built from CFBD data: market movement, team quality, returning production, matchup edges, and the clean read.

Louisville

ACC · 2025: 8-4 · SP #25

vs

Ole Miss

SEC · 2025: 11-1 · SP #7

KICKOFF

Sep 6

7:30 PM ET · ABC

VENUE

Nissan

Neutral site · Nashville

SPREAD

MISS -6.5

Opened -8.5

TOTAL

56.5

Opened 52.5

Executive read

Ole Miss should be favored, but the number is no bargain. SP, Elo, and talent say Ole Miss is materially better. Returning production says the Rebels are rebuilding the engine that made the 2025 offense elite. Louisville +6.5 is live; Under 56.5 is the cleaner angle if the market is overpaying for last year's Ole Miss offense.

Betting Market

BOVADA SPREAD

-6.5

Ole Miss opened -8.5

DRAFTKINGS SPREAD

-6.5

Consensus-ish

MONEYLINE

-270 / +220

Bovada

TOTAL

56.5

Opened 52.5

BOOK	SPREAD	MONEYLINE	TOTAL	MOVEMENT
Bovada	Ole Miss -6.5	Ole Miss -270 / Louisville +220	56.5	Spread toward Louisville; total up 4.0
DraftKings	Ole Miss -6.5	Ole Miss -278 / Louisville +225	55.5	No opener published in CFBD payload

LINE MOVEMENT

Spread & Total Movement

Louisville money

More points priced in

-8.5 open

-6.5 now

52.5 open

56.5 now

IMPLIED PROBABILITY

SIDE	ODDS	IMPLIED
Ole Miss ML	-270	73.0%
Louisville ML	+220	31.3%
Ole Miss ML DK	-278	73.5%
Louisville ML DK	+225	30.8%

The moneyline carries normal vig, so both implied probabilities sum above 100%. Treat these as market prices, not true probabilities.

The market story: Ole Miss is still favored by roughly a touchdown, but the spread has moved two points toward Louisville while the total climbed. That is not a quiet market.

Team Comparison

SP RATING

24.0

Ole Miss #7 · Louisville 12.4

FINAL ELO

2009

Louisville 1749

TALENT

813

Louisville 701

RECORD

11-1

Louisville 8-4

METRIC	LOUISVILLE	OLE MISS	EDGE
2025 record	8-4	11-1	Ole Miss
SP overall	12.4 (#25)	24.0 (#7)	Ole Miss
SP offense	#39 · 31.6	#3 · 40.4	Ole Miss
SP defense	#29 · 19.8	#20 · 18.3	Ole Miss by SP rank
Final Elo	1749	2009	Ole Miss +260
Talent composite	700.77	813.11	Ole Miss +112.34

OLE MISS CASE

FAVORITE

SP #7, Elo +260, talent +112. The raw power profile says the Rebels are a clear favorite even on a neutral field.

That 2025 offense was elite: #3 SP offense, 0.307 EPA/play, 4.44 points per scoring opportunity.

LOUISVILLE CASE

LIVE DOG

Louisville's defensive efficiency was better by raw advanced stats, and the returning-production profile is cleaner.

The Cardinals do not need to be better overall to cover +6.5. They need the rebuilt Ole Miss offense to start slowly.

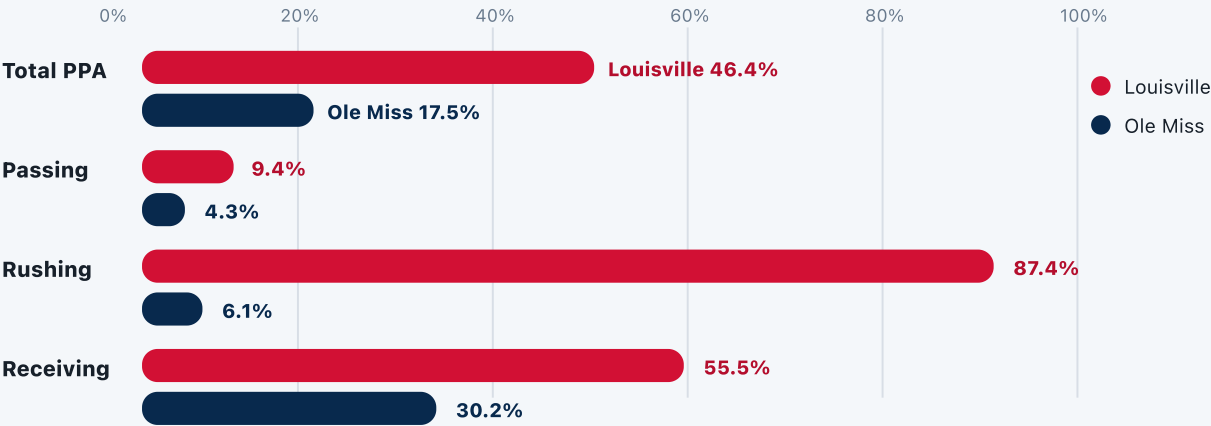
SP, Elo, and talent are 2025 fallback sources because 2026 preseason team quality fields are not yet fully published.

Returning Production

This is the fulcrum of the matchup. Ole Miss was clearly better in 2025, but the Rebels return only 17.5% of total PPA and almost none of the rushing production. Louisville returns nearly half of total PPA and almost the whole rushing profile.

Returning PPA Share

CFBD /player/returning · 2025 values as proxy entering 2026



The read: Ole Miss is laying nearly a touchdown while replacing 82.5% of total PPA and 93.9% of rushing PPA. That does not make Louisville the better team. It does make Louisville +6.5 less dumb than the brand gap suggests.

Efficiency Edges

METRIC	LOUISVILLE	OLE MISS	EDGE
Offensive EPA/play	0.153	0.307	Ole Miss +0.154
Offensive success rate	45.1%	48.5%	Ole Miss +3.4 pts
Offensive explosiveness	1.202	1.279	Ole Miss
Points/opportunity	3.62	4.44	Ole Miss +0.82
Defensive EPA/play allowed	0.060	0.110	Louisville
Defensive success rate allowed	36.4%	38.8%	Louisville
Explosiveness allowed	1.189	1.290	Louisville
Havoc rate	17.3%	16.7%	Louisville

WHY OLE MISS WINS

Ole Miss owns the macro profile: #7 SP, #3 offense, 2009 Elo, plus a recruiting/talent edge. If the new offense is functional right away, the Rebels have enough explosiveness in the system to make Louisville chase points.

FAVORITE SCRIPT Early pace, field-stretching shots, Louisville forced out of its rushing comfort zone.

WHY LOUISVILLE COVERS

The Cardinals had the better raw defensive efficiency and return a much cleaner rushing base. If Louisville shortens the game and Ole Miss has Week 1 timing issues, +6.5 has real value.

DOG SCRIPT Sustained drives, fewer possessions, Ole Miss offense flashes but stalls enough.

Total angle: The total climbed from 52.5 to 56.5. That may be paying for the 2025 Ole Miss offensive logo without fully pricing how much of that production is gone. Under 56.5 is the cleaner lean than taking a side.

Bet Card / Watchlist Context

WEEK 1 RANK

#2

Watchlist score

WATCHABILITY

61.5

/100

RECOMMENDATION

Under

56.5 lean

SIDE LEAN

LOU +6.5

Only if forced

ANGLE	CURRENT PRICE	GRADE	REASON
Under 56.5	Bovada 56.5 / DK 55.5	Best lean	Week 1 timing + Ole Miss production reset + Louisville defensive profile
Louisville +6.5	Consensus +6.5	Playable, not automatic	Line already moved from +8.5; some value has been eaten
Ole Miss ML	-270 / -278	Avoid	Too expensive for a roster-transition opener
Ole Miss -6.5	Consensus -6.5	Pass	Power numbers support it; returning production says risk is high

WATCHLIST SCORE BREAKDOWN

Competitiveness: 30/40 · spread under a touchdown

Team quality: 14/25 · SP #7 vs #25

Offensive fire: 10/15 · total in the mid-50s

Spotlight: 7/10 · ABC + neutral-site P4 game

Ranked: 0/10 · preseason rankings not yet published

DATA CAVEATS

2026 CFBD advanced stats, rankings, talent, and pregame Elo are not fully populated yet. Team quality uses 2025 SP/Elo/talent as preseason proxy.

The live forecast pipeline correctly refused to export because 0/51 Week 1 games resolved against the model feature contract. No fake probabilities were invented.

Final read: Ole Miss by power rating, Louisville by continuity. Best bet is not pretending we know the new Rebel offense in September. Keep it simple: Under 56.5, small stake, straight bet only.