College Basketball

BOOK CONVICTION SPREADS

Spreads | Totals →

Thursday, November 5, 2026 · generated 4:01 PM ET ·

1	0	0	1
GAMES SCREENED	OFFICIAL PICKS	STILL OPEN	LOCKED AT TIP-OFF

What Book Conviction measures — feeds, filters and scoring

A book that holds most of the money on one side should move its number *toward* that side. When it does the opposite — shading the price to make the popular side cheaper while already carrying that exposure — it is telling you its own number disagrees with its customers. That is what **Book Conviction** measures: how hard a book is leaning against its own money, priced in the margins that actually decide games.

Method. Three free feeds, none of them paid for and none of them interchangeable:

- **Action Network** — consensus % of money and % of tickets, plus a timestamped history of *both the number and the price*, at seven books individually rather than only the consensus.
- **DraftKings** — DraftKings' own handle % and bet %, independent of the consensus above, which is what makes agreement between them worth anything.
- **Pinnacle** — the sharp reference price. It takes sharp action and moves on it instead of shading to balance a public book's exposure, so it answers a different question: not where the money is, but where the number should be.

What gets flagged. A game needs at least 3,000 tracked bets — on thin markets the two splits feeds disagree by a median of roughly 30 points of money share, so their percentages there cannot be trusted — and both feeds must agree on which side holds the money, with at least **66% of the money** on it in each feed. At 51/49 a book holds no meaningful exposure either way: it is balanced and collecting vig from both sides, so moving the number "against the money" there is not a statement, it is noise. Then either the number moved against that money in the last 3 days, or the *price* did by at least half a point's worth: a book shades the vig before it moves the line, and a spread sitting still at −3 while the price runs −110 to −125 has moved. **What scores it.** The move is scored point for point: college basketball margins do not cluster, so there are no key numbers to weight it by. It is then scaled by how lopsided the money is, how much of it there is, whether the play is getting a better number than Pinnacle, and whether several books moved together within half an hour — the market being hit in parallel rather than one book drifting. That produces the 0–10 Conviction score. **The best 5 at 2.5 or above are official picks**, each decided as its game tips; everything else is listed and graded but kept out of the headline record.

Official picks — Top 5 · 2.5+

No official pick today. 1 spread cleared both filters but none reached 2.5 conviction, so none of them count towards the record. They are listed below.

Also flagged — outside the official 5

Real signals that did not make the official 5, either because they fell short of 2.5 or because 5 stronger plays were ahead of them when they tipped. Listed and graded, but they do not count towards the headline record.

Pennsylvania Quakers at Illinois Fighting Illini

FINAL · LOCKED

Spread · tip-off 8:30 PM ET · 6,406 bets tracked

PENN +30.5

ILL holds **90%** of the money (Action Network) and **74%** at DraftKings, and still the number moved **1 pt** away from that money. The book is making ILL -30.5 cheaper even though most of that side's money is already in. **5 books** moved it within half an hour of each other, 3.2h ago — the market being hit in parallel rather than one book drifting.

OPEN → NOW	MONEY %	TICKET %	MOVE 3D / 1D	PRICE 3D / 1D	SOURCES AGREE	PINNACLE
-27.5 → -30.5	90 / 74	83 / 83	-3 / -1	+2.27 / +1.39 pp	Yes	-30.5 (+0)

STEAM

5 books · 3.2h ago

Tipped off — frozen at the last pre-tip reading, 2026-11-06 01:33 UTC. This is the record of the pick.

Results — spreads

MATCHUP	MARKET	PICK	CLV	FINAL	RESULT
PENN @ ILL	spread	**PENN +30.5**	+0	70-112	LOSS

Graded against the number frozen before tip-off, not a later one. This slate: **0W - 1L (0%)** · **0 of 1** beat the close, averaging **+0** points.

By conviction

BAND	CONVICTION	PICKS	RECORD	BEAT THE CLOSE
High	5.5 +	0	—	—
Medium	3.5 – 5.5	0	—	—
Low	under 3.5	2	1W - 1L (50%)	1/2 (+0.16)

These bands are the test, and they are not the board. Closing line value is readable within hours, so if conviction means anything the **5.5+** band should beat the close more often than the **under 3.5** one — an answer available in weeks, where win/loss at this volume would take seasons. The cutoffs sit near the thirds of where the score actually lands, so the three groups are comparable in size; they were cut on football's record and want recutting once this sport has one of its own.

Which picks get **published** is a separate question: the best 5 confirmed plays of each slate at 2.5 or above are official, decided as each game tips. Everything else is still listed and still graded.

CLV is closing line value: how far the market moved *after* the play fired, in points, from the side taken. Positive means the market came to the play and a reader acting on it got a better bet than the market settled on. It is the more honest measure of this screen — win/loss on a handful of games says nothing either way, while consistently beating the close is what an edge actually looks like.

It is measured in two halves, because a market moves two ways. **Line** is the number itself. **Price** is the juice on that number, converted to points at the same rate the screen uses to read a price move as a line move — roughly 3.6 points of implied probability to a point of spread, and 2.4 to a point of total. A pick taken at −3 −110 that closes −3 −125 cost the book a dime, and counting only the line would score that as nothing at all.

The close is DraftKings' actual closing number, and both ends of the comparison are read from the same book — the standing gap between two books is not closing line value. Entries marked ***** are measured against this screen's own last pre-tip reading instead, which is a proxy for the close rather than the close. Picks recorded before this was tracked show "—".

Full board — spreads

MATCHUP	ET	BETS	OPEN	NOW	MONEY ON	AN $%	AN T%	DK $%	DK T%	7D	3D	1D	
PENN @ ILL	8:30	6,406	-27.5	**-30.5**	ILL	90	83	74	83	-3	-3	-1	2.2 FINAL

Movement columns are the change in the home spread over each window. Teal = moved against the money (the signal); orange = moved with it. **AN** = Action Network consensus, **DK** = DraftKings. Percentages are for the side named in "Money on".

How much to trust it

- **Most days produce nothing, and that is the screen working.** Thin markets are dropped before they are screened, both money feeds have to agree, and the line has to have moved against that money. A light board clears none of that: most nights in a thin early-season week produce no pick at all. A screen that always finds something is not a screen.
- **The edge is modest.** The underlying move — reverse line movement — is a real but heavily degraded signal — books price it in now. This screen finds where a market is behaving oddly; it does not establish that the odd behaviour is wrong.
- **Splits are a snapshot,** not a history. Percentages are read at generation time and will drift before tip-off.
- **Ticket shape can conflict.** Where one feed shows money concentrated in few tickets and the other shows it spread across many, the sharp reading is weaker. The per-game cards show both so the disagreement stays visible.
- **Totals move spreads.** A falling total mechanically compresses a spread, so part of a spread move can be a total move wearing a disguise.
- **Check the news.** A line moving against the money is often just an injury the percentages have not caught up with yet.

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