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LAS VEGAS - Ever suspect the totals of marquee NFL televised matchups are slanted to the 'over'?

Well they are. Cesar Robaina, odds manager for Las Vegas Sports Consultants, admits it.

"Yeah there's no question totals for the Sunday night and Monday night games are jacked up," he said.

LVSC oddsmakers are just doing their jobs, though, trying to watch out for the hotels. They realize the public tends to play 'over' when betting totals.

"Generally speaking, we need every Monday night game to go 'under,'" Robaina said.

In the case of this week's Monday night game between Oakland and Denver, Robaina thought the right opening total might be 45. However, LVSC sent out 47.

Adding a point or two to the total of a nationally televised game isn't uncommon for bookmakers.

"The only exception occurs when we have to worry about weather," Robaina said.

The 'over/under' number is usually artificially high regardless of the teams involved on Sunday and Monday night.

"If you have two very low scoring teams, where the total normally would be 34 or 35, we'd probably put it out 37 or 37 1/2," Robaina said. "If the total normally would be 47 or 48, we might put it out as 50."

Sometimes the public can cross up the bookmaker. That happened on last week's Sunday night ESPN game between Jacksonville and the New York Giants. LVSC recommended 37 for a total.

"If it would have been a normal Sunday game played during the day, we would have put it out 35 1/2 or 36," Robaina said. "As it turned out, the public didn't buy into it. They bet it 'under.'"

Luckily for the house, the Jaguars put up a meaningless late touchdown to lose 24-17. So the game ended up going 'over.'

Another reason why oddsmakers shade the 'over' on Sunday and Monday night games is they know that more parlay cards will be tied to the favorite and 'over.'

"If the game goes 'over' it's usually bad (for the house) if the favorite covers," Robaina said.

"There are different combinations, but usually the worst (for bookmakers) is favorite and 'over.' Most of the time for us, favorite and 'under' is good, or 'dog and 'over.'"