



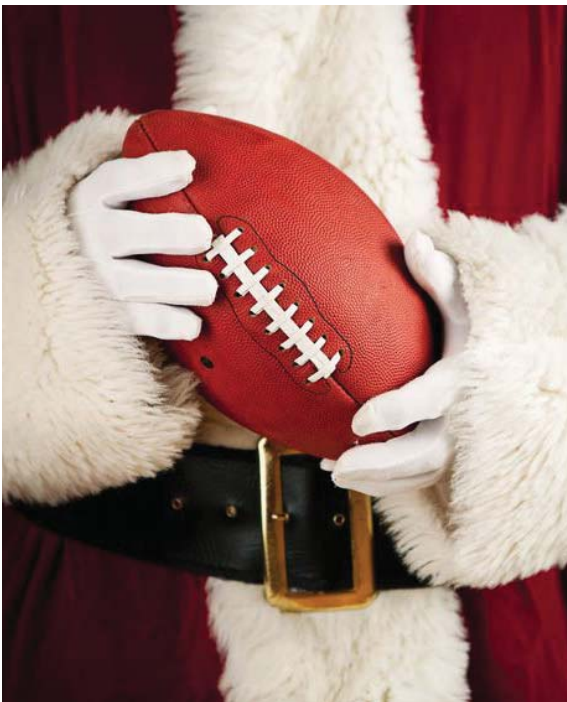
Volume 39, Issue 19

December 25-30, 2024

Marc's Five-Star College Bowl GOM Goes this Weekend

5-Star NFL Best Bets 100% This Month!

90% ATS AWESOME ANGLE INSIDE



- ***Awesome Angle and Tremendous Trends***
- ***Incredible Stat of the Week***
- ***Analysis on Every NFL Game***
- ***Best Bets and Key Plays***
- ***Full Schedule with Opening Lines***
- ***Kenny White's College & NFL Power Ratings***
- ***Wise Guys Handicapping Contest***



GET SMART

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GET EVERY EDGE IMAGINABLE

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AGAINST THE WIND

A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping

*Against the wind
We were runnin'
against the wind
We were young and strong;
we were runnin'
Against the wind*

Overall, the song's meaning is about getting older. It's about pushing on in life and maturing through love, exploration, heartbreak, and betrayal. The title and the repeated phrase "against the wind," in particular, signal the passing of time. The catchphrase itself came from Bob Seger's days of running track and cross country in high school when he would literally "run against the wind."

The song of the same name was one of his most popular tunes, a No. 3 best-seller, for good reason too. It's an unoffensive, almost hypnotic mid-tempo ballad with lyricism that inspired the next generation of singer/songwriters. (Garth Brooks, Brooks & Dunn, and The Highwaymen all did their own covers of the song.) In fact, Eagles' singer/songwriter Glenn Frey also provided backing vocals for the song. Seger and Frey met while working in the

Detroit music scene, where they both grew up.

The title of the song is also a perfect metaphor for struggling NFL teams that have slogged their way through mediocrity. But being value seekers that we are, it also becomes a profit-making situation if we...

BET ON any NFL home dog from Game 14 onward with a .250 or fewer win percentage if they won four or fewer games last season.

And why not, as these face-in-the-wind teams are 42-21 ATS in this role since 1988. Better yet, if their opponent scored fewer than 35 points in its last game. Dress them up as a home dog and they improve to 29-10 ATS.

Finally, pair them up against an opponent whose team net Yards Per Rush is not a positive (0 or less) they disappear like a felon in the Witness Protection program, going **16-1 ATS**.

Talk about going against the wind, the call goes out to the **New**

England Patriots this Saturday! With that, we'll close out with what

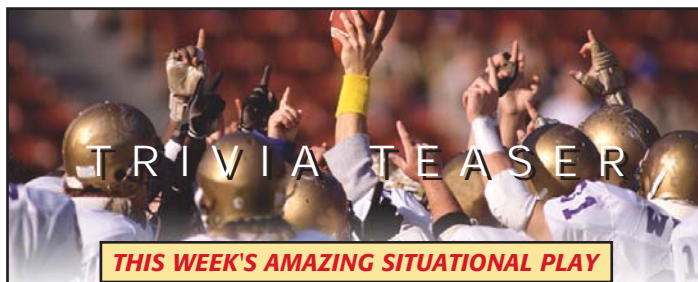
*Against the wind
I'm still runnin' against the wind
Well I'm older now and still
Against the wind*

*It seems like yesterday
But it was long ago
And the secrets that we shared
The mountains that we moved
Caught like a wildfire
out of control
Till there was nothing left to burn
and nothing left to prove
Against the wind; baby, we're
running against the wind.*

Don't miss this: My famous **5-Star College Bowl Game of the Month** goes this weekend. Our Top **5-Star and 10-Star College Bowl Plays** have crushed it, going 6-1 the last three years. It's part of another \$99 Football Weekend of College Bowl and NFL winners, or you can get it separately at **PlaybookSports.com**. For fast, instant service ecall **800.321.7777** – you'll be glad you did!

Marc Lawrence

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This NFL head coach relishes taking points at home, especially against opponents coming off a double-digit win, as his **5-0 ATS** career record attests.

Who is this week's calculating canine?

For the Trivia Teaser answer, turn to page 6.

AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK

PLAY ON any NFL home dog with a .400 win percentage if they were a playoff team last year and are facing a .700 or greater foe that allowed 17 or fewer points in its last game.

**Play ON:
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (12/30)**

**View Marc's Awesome Angle Of The Week
and more at the PlaybookSports.com website!**

**DOG
GONE
GOOD**

**ATS W-L
Record S/1990:**

**9-1
(90%)**

2-MINUTE HANDICAP



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ATS = Against The Spread • A = Away • Con = Conference • D = Dog
F = Favorite • H = Home • Rev = Revenge • R = Road • SU = Straight-Up

WEEK 17 NFL GAMES

All results are ATS – Against The Spread – and most recent, unless noted otherwise. Content contained in this report remains the exclusive private property of PLAYBOOK™ and PlaybookSports.com™ and may not be reused or disseminated in any form without express written consent of the publisher.

TEAMS	KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS	TEAMS	KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS
Wednesday, December 25			
Kansas City PITTSBURGH	3-1 bef Den... 3-1 vs AFC North... 2-5-1 L8 vs .666 > opp SERIES: Host 4-2... 5-0 vs AFC West... 5-1 L6 vs .750 > opp	Las Vegas NEW ORLEANS	5-1-1 bef div HG... 4-1 aft Jack... 0-6 L6 vs NFC South 0-5 bef TB... 1-6 as non-div favs 6 < pts... 3-15 home vs AFC
Baltimore HOUSTON	SERIES: 3-0 L3... 8-1 as non-div RF's 5 < pts... 6-1 aft Pit 0-4 aft Sat game... 1-4 home vs AFC North... 2-6 bef Ten	Tennessee JACKSONVILLE	SERIES: Visitor 6-3... 4-2 aft Indy... 0-4 in 2nd of BB RG 3-1-1 bef div RG... 0-4 aft Raiders... 2-7 L9 as div HF's
Thursday, December 26			
Seattle CHICAGO	5-0 in 1st of BB RG... 2-5 as non-div RF's 7 < pts 4-0-1 in 2nd of B HG... 4-2 L6 vs NFC West... 1-5 aft Det	Ny Jets BUFFALO	0-3 as dogs 8 > pts... 1-4 bef div HG... 3-9 bef Mia SERIES: Host 4-2... 6-1 in 2nd of BB HG... 0-6 bef div RG
Saturday, December 28			
La Chargers NEW ENGLAND	4-1 vs AFC East... 0-5-1 aft score 34 > pts... 2-5 aft Thur gm SERIES: 6-1 L7... 1-8 in 1st of BB HG... 1-6 bef div HG	Carolina TAMPA BAY	4-1 w/ quad revenge... 1-5 bef Atl... 1-4 in 1st of BB RG SERIES: Host 4-2... 3-0 aft Dal... 8-3 as div HF's 5 > pts
Denver CINCINNATI	SERIES: Visitor 5-0... 7-0 aft Thursday gm... 3-1 Game 16 4-0-1 aft div HG... 7-1 vs opp off Thur gm... 2-5 bef Pit	Green Bay MINNESOTA	SERIES: Visitor 3-0... 6-1 aft Monday HG... 5-2 bef div HG 3-1 bef div RG... 0-4 as div HF's < 7 pts... 2-5 bef Det
Arizona LA RAMS	SERIES: Visitor 5-2... 1-5 L6 div RG... 1-3 L4 vs sing div rev 8-1 w/ sing div revenge... 1-4 L5 as div HF's... 2-6 bef Sea	Dallas PHILADELPHIA	4-0 w/ sing div revenge... 6-2 bef Wash... 2-4 L6 div RG SERIES: Host 4-1... 0-9 as favs 8 > pts... 0-5 bef NYG
Sunday, December 29			
Indianapolis NY GIANTS	5-2 as non-div RF's... 0-4 bef div HG... 1-4 L5 non-conf RG 5-0 L5 vs AFC South... 5-2-1 non-conf HG... 0-5 bef div RG	Miami CLEVELAND	4-0 in 1st of BB RG... 13-3 vs .400 < opp... 0-3 bef div RG SERIES: 7-2 L9... 4-2 aft div RG... 1-6 L7 vs AFC East
		Atlanta WASHINGTON	0-4 as non-div RD's 5 < pts... 3-12 w/ non-div revenge SERIES: 3-0 L3... 4-1 as non-div HF's TY... 3-1 aft div HG
		Monday, December 30	
		Detroit SAN FRAN	SERIES: 3-0 L3... 7-3 vs NFC West... 3-6 in 2nd of BB RG 7-2 as HD's 5 < pts... 0-4 bef div RG... 1-4 L5 vs NFC North

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PRO FOOTBALL

Wednesday, December 25

PITTSBURGH over Kansas City by 3

Santa brought an early gift to both of these teams in this Christmas Day preview of what could be a playoff preview between two teams on a Wednesday, no less. That means the NFL has games scheduled every day this week except on Tuesday and Friday – the first such occurrence in league history. This is also known as a holiday gift as NFL teams that have clinched the No. 1 overall playoff seed in their previous game – read: Kansas City – have come flatter than an Aunt Jemima pancake. It's the opportunity to step back and catch their breath before the playoffs call. The Chiefs enter at 1-4 ATS in weekday games when coming off a win, while the Steelers have not only cashed in each of their last five games against AFC West foes, but they are also 18-5-5 ATS as home dogs under Mike Tomlin, including **11-1-2 ATS** from Game Eight out. The Burghers also enter today's fray tied with Baltimore atop the AFC North. Still, they own the tie-breaker with the Ravens and are not anxious to give it up today, especially with the Black Birds set to kick off next against the Texans in the game following this. Political correctness aside, it's Pittsburgh's chance to say, "I'se in town, honey." And that is where the money should be in the holiday treat.

Baltimore over **HOUSTON** by 8

The Ravens clinched an AFC playoff berth after a convincing 34-17 win over the Steelers at M&T Bank Stadium on Saturday, but they want more. Despite the win, the Steelers still own the tie-breaker advantage and will need a loss by Pittsburgh today or next week against the Bengals to take back the AFC North division lead. Conversely, the Texans captured their second consecutive AFC South title last week. They had better not uncork too much champagne, though, as the **MIDWEEK ALERT** notes, they are riding a 0-4 ITS (In The Stats) losing skein. In addition, the Ravens have dominated this series, going **4-0 SUATS** of late, and are **8-1 ATS** as road chalk of six or fewer points. With Huey riding a **0-4 ATS** losing streak in games after playing on Saturday, this looks like an opportune time for Lamar Jackson to further enhance his MVP chances today.

Thursday, December 26

3★ BEST BET

Seattle over **CHICAGO** by 11

Talk about a dagger going through your heart; in the past two weeks, Seattle has fallen from the No. 3 seed in the NFC Playoff Picture to No. 9 this week. As a result, the Seahawks currently have an 11% chance of crashing the party. That improves to 30% with a pair of season-ending victories. All they can do at this point is to beat whoever they line up against, and it starts with the hibernating Bears today. In truth, it's more like comatose Chicago as they are immersed in a nine-game losing streak since their Bye week in late October, a result of having scored more than 20 points in only one contest since being hypnotized. On the other side of the field, Seattle checks in at **5-0 ATS** in the best of last-to-back road games. And as always, we save the best for last with **THE CLINCHER: NFL teams who faced the Detroit Lions in their previous game are 2-11-1 ATS this season, including 0-5-1 ATS at home.**

INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

The Los Angeles Rams are 12-1 SUATS during the month of December behind QB Matthew Stafford.

Saturday, December 28

UPSET

GAME OF THE WEEK

UPSET

NEW ENGLAND over LA Chargers by 6

The late-season love for the Patriots is at work today and for all the right reasons. For openers, following a 16- SU and 1-5-1 ATS start to the season under new head coach Jerod Mayo, they've come together enough to go 5-3 ATS in games since, allowing more than 400 yards just once. Today marks their first game in Foxborough since Dec 1. They've gone **6-1 ATS** the last seven games in this series and are 6-2 ATS at home on Saturdays, which is a near mirror opposite of the Bolts' 2-8 ATS record in their last ten games on Saturdays. With the Chargers **0-5-1 ATS** after scoring 34-plus points in their previous contest, we turn it over to **THE CLINCHER: See Marc's 'Against The Wind' BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW** column on Page 2 for a terrific 16-1 ATS winning angle that supports the Pats in this game.

5★ BEST BET

CINCINNATI over Denver by 13

A win here clinches a playoff berth for the Broncos. A loss today eliminates the Bengals from the postseason. What can we expect in this match-up today, you ask? It's a game with playoff intensity, for sure. Denver can clinch a playoff bid with a win today or next week. It currently holds the 7th and final playoff seed, while Cincinnati holds the No. 9 spot in the AFC playoff chain. Mathematically, Denver enters with a 76% chance of being playoff-bound, while Cincy clings to a scant 4% chance of earning a playoff berth. That improves to 14% with wins today and next week against the Steelers. Don't tell that to Joe Burrow, though. All he knows is his team is still breathing. We know that Burrow is 9-3-1 ATS in his NFL career against the ACW West, including **5-0 SUATS** in the last five games as a host. In addition, the Striped Cats are 3-1-1 ATS on Saturdays, while the Broncos are 1-4 ATS on Saturdays. So, yes. Saturday is all right if you're a Bengal, and so is **THE CLINCHER: The Bengals are 14-4 ATS against .600 or greater non-division opposition with Joe Burrow, including 9-3 SU and 10-2 ATS when Cincy enters off a SUATS win.**

LA RAMS over Arizona by 12

Thwack! That was the sound of the rubber band we were forced to put away when pondering the thought of backing the southbound flying Cardinals against the ascending Rams. It snapped upon learning that Kyler Murray is just 13-29-1 SU and 17-23-1ATS from November out in his NFL career. Ouch. That hurt. Now on a 1-4 losing run since their Bye week before Thanksgiving, Zona knocked on the playoff door at 6-4 before they fattened up and began playing like turkeys thereafter. The onus now shifts to the Rams, who, thanks to an 8-2 effort since their Bye week, have cemented their seventh winning season in eight years under Sean McVay and can now clinch the NFC West with any of three possibilities, including two scenarios this week that include a win and a Seahawks loss or tie, or a tie and a Seattle loss. Hence, no rubber bands are allowed today. While we're not sure what McVay is serving his troops in team meals in post-Bye week games, they are **15-3 SU and 13-5 ATS** the past two regular seasons after enjoying a respite. So, with the Redbirds **1-5 ATS** in their last six division road games and the L.A. **8-1 ATS** when seeking division revenge from a single loss, along with QB Matthew Stafford camped inside this week's **INCREDIBLE STAT** on this page, we're left with only one real option here today, and it's Ram Tough!

Sunday, December 29

Indianapolis over NY GIANTS by 3

Somehow, the inside-out Colts are back in the AFC Playoff Picture, holding down the No. 8 seed entering this week. They can thank the schedule maker for their success, as their last three wins have come at the expense of the Titans, the Patriots, and the Jets. Their reward today is taking on another sloth. It's so bad that they can't seem to get out of their own way. Following a promising 2-2 start to the

season, Big Blue went limp in a hurry as they ride a 10-game losing streak entering today's fray. With Indy **0-5 SUATS** in road finales, we can see the G-Men improving on their **5-0 ATS** ledger against the AFC South as the Colts throw another shoe today.

WASHINGTON over Atlanta by 7

The up-and-down Dirty Birds meet the resilient Commanders with much on the line for each team. Washington defeated Philadelphia last week despite turning the ball over five times to the Eagles. Meanwhile, the Falcons rode the young arm of first-round pick Michale Penix Jr. to the winner's circle in his first start in a convincing 27-point win over the Giants. However, what Jr. is about to learn today is a marked difference between the two NFC East rivals; one can play, and the other cannot. Atlanta currently resides in the No. 4 slot in the NFC Playoff Picture with only a 25% chance to make it to the postseason. A win today boosts that to 50%, and a pair of wins puts them in the playoffs, meaning they control their destiny as they would win the NFC South and clinch the No. 4 seed. On the other side of the coin, Washington is in if they win, either today or next week against the Cowboys. According to the '2-Minute Handicap' on page 3, the trends weigh heavily against the Falcons. With the Redskins, err, Commanders, 3-0 SUATS in this series, they gain the nod.

NEW ORLEANS over Las Vegas by 3

It's games like this that give the NFL a bad rap. Neither team can play. Neither one cares. Yet the game must continue because the league is heavily focused on marketing each team. It's too bad neither team can go on the IR. Nevertheless, the Saints return home red-faced following last week's pathetic performance on Monday Night Football when they lost 34-0 at Green Bay, marking the eighth time they've been whitewashed since at least 1980. It was also the 29th time a team was blanked under the Monday Night lights. These teams are just 6-10 ATS at home the following game and 2-7 ATS as home chalk. Coupled with the fact that the 'Aints are just **3-15 ATS** as AFC hosts, they appear like a team with leprosy. However, the Raiders bring little to the table in this battle of lepers, including a **0-6 ATS** mark against the NFC South. Warning: do not touch either team unless, of course, you're fond of patchy skin.

Tennessee over JACKSONVILLE by 3

Nothing is worse than backing a team in the season's final stages with a lame-duck coach. And that's the job description of both coaches in the contest – Doug Pederson of the Jaguars and Titans' interim head coach Mike McCoy. This means that neither team will likely be focused on this game. Instead, players and coaches from both teams are busy making tee times starting in January. We know that Jacksonville is 2-7 ATS of late as division home chalk, while Tennessee is 0-4 ATS in the second of consecutive road games. If that's of any help, you may require help if you're seriously contemplating playing this scrimmage.

BUFFALO over NY Jets by 8

If you do not believe in the meaning of 'letdown games,' look back to last week at Buffalo's effort against the pathetic Patriots. After flying higher than any team in the league in the previous ten games, the Bills came this close to laying an egg against the Pats last week. To their credit, they escaped and clinched the No. 2 seed in the AFC, but the door is still open to the possibility of catching top seed Kansas City if the Bills win their final two games and the Chiefs lose their last two contests. The Bills are certainly capable of holding up their end of the deal. The Chiefs will make things difficult, albeit Kansas City will be on the road for its final two games of the season. If you like the Jets, you can't enjoy their 0-3 SUATS record as dogs of 8 or more points. Nor the Bills' **6-1 ATS** mark in the second of consecutive home games. Fortunately, we don't like either.

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4★ BEST BET

TAMPA BAY over Carolina by 16

We love matchups of this sort at this stage of the season. Namely, a losing team coming off a win faces a winning team off a loss and is looking to secure a playoff berth. Both teams check each box. The Panthers cashed their sixth straight underdog ticket last week when they apple-carted Arizona while crushing their playoff hopes. Conversely, at the same time, the Buccaneers were tripped as a road favorite at Dallas and are now on the outside looking in at the NFC Playoff Picture. Right now, the Bucs hold a 57% chance of breaking through. That improves to 70% with a win here and 85% with a pair of season-ending victories. The good news is they have beat Carolina like a drum of late, winning eight of the last nine meetings while cashing eight of the previous eleven games as a division home favorite of five or more points. In addition, the Panthers are **0-5 SUATS** in Game Sixteen of the season in the last five years. And then there is the Ugly Betty stat for QB Bryce Young, supplied this week by **THE CLINCHER: Carolina is 0-9 SU and 2-6-1 ATS versus winning opponents behind QB Bryce Young, including 0-5 SUATS against opponents with an .800 or fewer win percentage.**

Green Bay over Minnesota by 4

Packers have now made the playoffs in five of Matt LaFleur's six seasons with the team. An endorsement of his head coaching ability was the transformation of Jordan Love to starting quarterback after he took over for Aaron Rodgers. Many had insisted that Rodgers carried LaFleur, but it doesn't look that way today. Yes, the Packers scored 30-plus points in their last five games. What is not is that the Pack is hitting on all cylinders on defense, holding three of its previous five foes to season-low yardage. Yet they currently reside in 3rd place in the NFC North, yet they have clinched a playoff berth. And if Green Bay beats Minnesota by three or more points today and then Chicago next week, they will earn a higher seed than the Vikings - should Minny fall to Detroit on the season's final week. So yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. The history book reminds us that the visiting team in this series is 3-0 ATS, and Green Bay is **6-1 ATS** after hosting a Monday Night game, while Minnesota is **0-4 ATS** as division home chalk of fewer than seven points. And then there is the round robin with the Packers **0-4 ATS** in Game Sixteen and the Vikes **0-4 ATS** in Game Sixteen. If this were a tennis match, it would be game, set, match ... Green Bay.

(continued on next page)

Wise Guys Contest Sponsored by PlaybookSports.com

Below are Picks from the Top 20 Contestants
for Week 17 of the 2024 Wise Guys Contest
(first-word alphabetical order) –
One Point Single Plays Listed

THE WISE GUYS



Now in its 35th year, the WISE GUYS CONTEST is a Winners-take-all handicapping event sponsored by PlaybookSports.com. All plays are graded against the lines posted after 4:00 PM Mondays on the WISE GUYS CONTEST page at PlaybookSports.com. Each week below we'll post Single Plays from the Top 20 point-earners. Following the play is their overall Win-Loss record / Double Play record / Total Points earned to date.

Andy Iskoe logical7@cox.net	BUCCANEERS -8.5	21-11 / 1-0 / 36 pts	Joe Lisi jal@goforthe2.com	Louisville Over 49.5	17-15 / 0-1 / 25 pts
BB Documented Plays www.the-swami.com	N Caro Under 54.5	17-15 / 2-0 / 28 pts	Luis Stopa stopa12@yahoo.com	STEELERS +2.5	17-15 / 1-0 / 27 pts
Billy The Kid playbooksports.com	Texas A&M -3.5	20-12 / 0-0 / 28 pts	Marco D'Angelo marco@wagertalk.com	Boise State +11.5	20-12 / 0-0 / 31 pts
Captain Morgan playbooksports.com	STEELERS +2.5	18-14 / 1-0 / 28 pts	Norm Hitzges norm1310@gmail.com	Bowling Green -8.5	17-15 / 0-1 / 28 pts
Chris Thurston cthurston18@gmail.com	Iowa +3.5	16-16 / 1-1 / 27 pts	Prime Sports Network nanadepalma1@aol.com	LIONS -3.5	16-16 / 2-0 / 29 pts
CR Plays jeffparetts@gmail.com	COLTS -7.5	22-10 / 1-0 / 36 pts	Ralph Michaels calsports@aol.com	Miami Fla -3.5	18-14 / 0-0 / 29 pts
Doc Sports max@docsports.com	Missouri -3.5	17-15 / 2-0 / 27 pts	Rob Vinciletti Goldencontender@aol.com	Texas Tech +1.5	17-15 / 1-0 / 27 pts
Jeff Michaels jmsports@gmx.com	LIONS -3.5	18-14 / 0-1 / 25 pts	Ross Benjamin benjaminsports@yahoo.com	UConn Under 54.5	19-13 / 1-0 / 28 pts
Jim Feist bettowin@aol.com	CHARGERS Over 42.5	17-15 / 1-0 / 27 pts	Stormin' Norman tica0004@hotmail.com	FALCONS Over 47.5	19-13 / 1-0 / 28 pts
Ken Thomson ken@sportsradio.com	Texas A&M -3.5	21-11 / 0-0 / 29 pts	TD Tony tdtony@hotmail.com	Michigan +13.5	16-16 / 0-0 / 26 pts

To view the entire Wise Guys standings, including Triple, Double and Single plays, visit www.PlaybookSports.com and cash in this weekend for only \$15!

PHILADELPHIA over Dallas by 7

Let's tell it like it is. These two teams do like one another, and it's not even close. Thus, it's an all-out war whenever they get together on the gridiron. It's lucky for the Eagles that **the host is 10-1 ATS** in this series. Otherwise, this treatise would be about the Cowboys' quest to avenge a season-worst 28-point home loss in early November. Cooper Rush's first start this season was filling in for an injured Dak Prescott, and Rush struggled mightily. He's since settled in, and as a result, the Boys are back in town, winning four of their last five games while enjoying playing spoiler. The Green Birds are still on hold with QB Jalen Hurts in concussion protocol. Until we know more about his condition, we'll keep our hands off our wallet. Dallas is **4-0 ATS** when seeking single revenge, while Philly is **0-9 ATS** as a favorite of eight or more points. Keep an eye on this line and, of course, Hurts' condition.

Miami over CLEVELAND by 8

The Dolphins had to be shivering in their skin when they found out they'd be traveling to Cleveland in December after visiting Buffalo in November last month. The good news for the Fish, though, is that temperatures are expected to be 50 degrees during this game on Sunday. But the truth is that when it's 50 degrees in Miami, it's considered friggin' cold to the natives. We know first-hand. The fact is the Dolphins are clinging to the slimmest of hope in making it to the postseason, currently the No. 9 seed in the AFC Playoff Picture with just a 2% chance. Wins here and next week against the Jets bump their chances up to ... 4%. Or, as Tony Soprano would say, "Fuggedaboutit!" However, as long as the door remains open, Miami will look to improve on its **4-0 ATS** mark in the first of consecutive road games and also on its **13-3 ATS** record against .400 or fewer foes. With the Browns going through the motions and just **1-6 ATS** in their last seven games against the AFC East, there is only one way to look here. Chilled Dolphin, anyone?

Monday, December 30

SAN FRANCISCO over Detroit by 3

When was the last time the 49ers were a home dog, you ask? Try two years ago when they took one point against the Chiefs - and got shellacked. Kyle Shanahan is just 9-8 ATS when taking points, but as this week's **TRIVIA TEASER** on page 2 tells, he shines in this particular role today. The Niners are dead meat, eliminated from this year's playoffs. Then again, it's not headline news. In eight seasons with the 49ers, Shanahan has missed the playoffs four times. The 49ers' absence from the postseason will be the first time San Francisco will be on the outside looking in at the playoffs in three years. A 4-4 SUATS record at home this season didn't help. Nor did a multitude of injuries. The fact of the matter is that Frisco still owns the No. 2 overall ranked defense in the league. The No. 1 seed in the NFC invades, knowing that winning out gives the Lions everything they want, including home-field advantage. So, would a win here be combined with a Minnesota loss? We're not ready to hand the kit and kaboodle to Detroit yet. Not with the Niners **4-1 ATS** in their last five as a host on Monday Night. Remember, the last time Detroit was favored in a season-ending road finale was in 2017, when they laid three points at Cincinnati. They lost the game, 26-17. And don't forget, the 49ers are also the focal team in Marc's **'Against The Wind' BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW** article on page 2.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM
MARC LAWRENCE AND THE
ENTIRE PLAYBOOK STAFF!**

THE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP: O/U STYLE

**AN 'OVER / UNDER'
REPORT ON THIS
WEEK'S NFL CARD
BY VICTOR KING**

All games played on this week's NFL schedule are listed below. As always, the number listed first is the 'OVER' and the number listed second is the 'UNDER'. If you like what you see, there's much more – including **5 NFL O/U BEST BETS** – inside the **2024 Playbook 'TOTALS' TIPSHEET** by Victor King – the definitive weekly OU newsletter. A single issue is only \$11.00. Rest-of-Season subscription is \$11.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2024 "Totals Train"! ***This week's GAME 17 Playbook O/U TREND play: Broncos @ Bengals 'OVER' the TOTAL'**

2024 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK SEVENTEEN

GAME MATCHUPS	KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
Kansas City (Open: 41) PITTSBURGH	4-1 OU Game 16... 6-3 OU L9 vs AFC North... 7-3 OU as RF's 3 < pts... but 2-11 OU vs .666 > opp... 2-6 OU Weekdays 6-1 OU on Weekdays... 4-1 OU off SU Loss 14 > pts... 3-1 OU L4 vs KC (43.5)... but 1-5 OU in 1st of BB HG
Baltimore (47.5) HOUSTON	6-0 OU on Weekdays L2Y... 3-0 OU TY as non-div RF's 5 < pts... but 0-4 OU L2Y vs AFC South... 1-6 OU bef Clev 5-0 OU bef Ten... 7-3 OU on Weekdays... but 0-6 OU L6 vs Balt (41.1)... 0-3 OU Game 16... 1-4 OU as non-div HD's 10 <
Seattle (41.5) CHICAGO	3-0 OU Thursdays L2Y... 6-1-1 OU Game 16... 5-1 OU L6 vs NFC North... 5-1 OU bef div RG... but 2-7 OU as non-div RF's 5-1 OU in wnd of BB HG... 5-1 OU bef div RG... 7-2 OU L9 vs Sea (43.4)... but 1-5 OU Thursdays... 1-3 OU aft Det
La Chargers (39.5) NEW ENGLAND	3-0 OU aft Thursday gm... 6-1 OU aft score 34 > pts... 8-2 OU aft Den... but 1-4 OU L5 vs NE (34.6)... 1-3 OU Saturdays 4-0 OU vs dbl revenge... 6-1 OU L7 div HG... 4-1 OU Game 15... 6-3 OU aft Tenn... but 1-5 OU off DD road win
Denver (47.5) CINCINNATI	3-0 OU Saturdays... 6-1 OU aft allow 34 > pts... 4-1 OU aft LAC... 3-1 OU Game 16... 3-1 OU bef KC... 3-1 OU vs AFC North 4-0 OU aft Clev... 4-0 OU bef Pit... 3-0 OU off div win 14 > pts... 3-0 OU 2nd of BB HG... 3-0 OU vs AFC West TY
Arizona (49) LA RAMS	4-1 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 3-1 OU L4 vs Rams... 6-3 OU bef SF... but 0-4 OU L4 div RG... 1-3 OU on Saturdays 4-1 OU on Saturdays... 4-1 OU as div HF's < 7 pts... but 1-5 OU aft allow < 10 pts... 1-3 OU bef Sea... 1-3 OU Game 16
Indianapolis (40) NY GIANTS	9-2 OU bef div HG... 4-2 OU Game 16... but 0-4 OU L4 non-conf RG... 1-4 OU bef Jack... 3-7 OU aft score 35 > pts 4-0 OU L4 vs Ind (54.7)... 4-2 OU Game 16... but 2-9 OU L11 non-conf HG... 1-4 OU bef div RG... 3-6 OU bef Phil
Atlanta (46) WASHINGTON	3-0 OU aft NYG... 4-1 OU off home win 14 > pts... 3-1 OU L4 vs .600 > opp... 3-1 OU bef Car... but 0-6 OU L6 vs NFC East 3-0 OU off dog win... 4-1 OU aft div HG... 4-1 OU as non-div HF's 7 < pts... but 0-4 OU Game 16... 1-4 OU bef Dal
Las Vegas (39.5) NEW ORLEANS	4-0 OU vs opp off Mon RG... 6-1 OU aft Jac... 3-1 OU Game 16... but 1-4 OU L5 non-conf RG... 1-4 OU L5 vs NFC South 11-2 OU as non-conf HF's 7 < pts... but 0-4 OU Game 16... 1-4 OU aft Monday gm... 1-4 OU aft GB... 3-1 OU bef TB
Tennessee (38) JACKSONVILLE	3-0 OU in 2nd of BB RG... but 0-3 OU Game 16... 1-6 OU bef div HG... 1-5 OU bef Hou... 2-4 OU aft IndY 4-0 OU L4 as div HF's... 6-3 OU aft LV... but 0-3 OU bef IndY... 2-7 OU Game 16... 3-8 OU L11 vs .250 < opp
Ny Jets (48) BUFFALO	3-0 OU aft non-conf HG... 4-1 OU aft score < 10 pts... 3-1 OU Game 16... but 1-4 OU bef div HG... 2-7 OU L9 div RG 3-1 OU Game 16... 3-1 OU bef NEng... but 1-5 OU L6 vs Jets (37.5)... 1-4 OU in 2nd of BB HG... 3-8 OU as favs 9 > pts
Carolina (47) TAMPA BAY	4-0 OU L4 away vs TB (49.8)... 8-1 OU aft score 35 > pts... 8-2 OU div RD's 4 > pts... 6-2 OU off dog win... but 1-3 OU Game 16 8-1 OU aft Dal... 6-1 OU Game 16... 5-2 OU as div HF's 5 > pts... but 1-4 OU off SU fav loss... 1-4 OU bef NORl
Green Bay (49) MINNESOTA	4-0 OU Game 16... 4-0 OU w/ div rev L2Y... 3-0 OU bef div HG... 8-1 OU aft NORl... 9-3 OU bef Chi... but 2-4 OU aft Mon gm 5-0 OU Game 16... 6-1 OU vs sing div rev... 3-1 OU L4 home vs GB (53.7)... 3-1 OU bef Det... 4-2 OU vs .666 > opp
Dallas (43.5) PHILADELPHIA	3-0 OU as dogs > 7 pts... 4-1 OU w/ sing div rev... 4-2 OU bef div HG... but 0-4 OU Game 16... 3-7 OU bef Wash 8-2 OU L10 div HG... 6-2 OU aft Wash... but 1-4 OU bef NYG... 1-3 OU Game 16... 2-5 OU off road fav loss
Miami (42.5) CLEVELAND	5-1 OU Game 16... 4-1 OU bef div RG... 5-2 OU in 1st of BB RG... but 0-3 OU off home dog win... 2-6 OU bef Jets 6-0 OU L6 vs AFC East... 5-1 OU aft Cin... 6-2 OU Game 16... but 0-4 OU bef Balt... 2-14 OU as home dogs 4 > pts
Detroit (51.5) SAN FRANCISCO	5-1 OU aft div RG... 5-1 OU aft Chi... 4-1 OU bef Min... 4-2 OU L6 vs NFC West... 6-3 OU on Mondays... but 2-4 OU Game 16 3-0 OU L3 vs Det (60.0)... 3-1 OU on Mondays... 3-1 OU L4 as home dogs... 5-2 OU Game 16... but 0-5 OU bef div RG

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KENNY WHITE'S 2024 FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS

Power Ratings courtesy of KennyWhiteSports.com

Rnk: Overall rank nationally (130 teams) • PWR: Numerical team power rating • HF: Numerical home field value

Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF	Rnk	School	Conference	PWR	HF
NCAA														
109	Air Force	Mountain West	97.5	4.5	29	Kansas	Big 12	115	4.5	54	Rutgers	Big Ten	110	4.5
125	Akron	Mid-American	91	2	14	Kansas St	Big 12	119	5.5	105	Sam Houston St	Conference USA	98.5	3.5
6	Alabama	Southeastern	125	6	133	Kennesaw St	Conference USA	84	3.5	123	San Diego St	Mountain West	92.5	3.5
92	Appalachian St	Sun Belt	101	4.5	134	Kent St	Mid-American	75.5	4	94	San Jose St	Mountain West	100	4.5
68	Arizona	Big-12	106	5	29	Kentucky	Southeastern	115	4	11	SMU	Atlantic Coast	122	4.5
14	Arizona St	Big-12	119	3.5	76	Liberty	Conference USA	104	4	71	South Alabama	Sun Belt	106	3
22	Arkansas	Southeastern	117	4.5	76	Louisiana	Sun Belt	104	3.5	20	South Carolina	Southeastern	118	5.5
112	Arkansas St	Sun Belt	96.5	3.5	117	Louisiana Tech	Conference USA	95.5	4.5	131	Southern Miss	Sun Belt	87.5	4
60	Army	American Athletic	109	3.5	14	Louisville	Atlantic Coast	119	5.5	91	Stanford	Atlantic Coast	101	4
26	Auburn	Southeastern	116	5.5	17	LSU	Southeastern	119	6	54	Syracuse	Atlantic Coast	110	5
131	Ball St	Mid-American	87.5	3	82	Marshall	Sun Belt	104	4	23	TCU	Big 12	116	5.5
33	Baylor	Big 12	115	4	64	Maryland	Big Ten	107	4.5	126	Temple	American Athletic	90	3
33	Boise St	Mountain West	115	5.5	51	Memphis	American Athletic	111	3	5	Tennessee	Southeastern	125	6
57	Boston College	Atlantic Coast	109	4	10	Miami (FL)	Atlantic Coast	124	3.5	3	Texas	Southeastern	128	5.5
89	Bowling Green	Mid-American	102	2	72	Miami (OH)	Mid-American	105	2.5	17	Texas A&M	Southeastern	119	6
122	Buffalo	Mid-American	93.5	3	26	Michigan	Big Ten	116	5.5	46	Texas St	Sun Belt	112	4
36	BYU	Big 12	114	5	64	Michigan St	Big Ten	107	4.5	46	Texas Tech	Big 12	112	5.5
41	California	Atlantic Coast	113	4	128	Middle Tenn St	Conference USA	89	3.5	94	Toledo	Mid-American	100	4
119	C Michigan	Mid-American	95	2.5	29	Minnesota	Big Ten	115	5	100	Troy	Sun Belt	99.5	4
109	Charlotte	American Athletic	97.5	2.5	75	Mississippi St	Southeastern	105	5	43	Tulane	American Athletic	112	3
51	Cincinnati	Big 12	111	4.5	36	Missouri	Southeastern	114	5	129	Tulsa	American Athletic	88.5	3.5
13	Clemson	Atlantic Coast	120	5.5	76	Navy	American Athletic	104	4	107	UAB	American Athletic	98	4.5
100	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	99.5	3.5	60	NC State	Atlantic Coast	109	4.5	33	UCF	Big 12	115	4.5
17	Colorado	Big 12	119	4.5	29	Nebraska	Big Ten	115	5	54	UCLA	Big Ten	110	3.5
94	Colorado St	Mountain West	100	4.5	111	Nevada	Mountain West	97	4	89	UConn	Independent	102	3.5
57	Duke	Atlantic Coast	109	4.5	94	New Mexico	Mountain West	100	3	112	UL-Monroe	Sun Belt	96.5	3
85	East Carolina	American Athletic	103	4	129	New Mexico St	Conference USA	88.5	4	124	UMass	Independent	92	2
121	E Michigan	Mid-American	94.5	2	57	North Carolina	Atlantic Coast	109	4.5	43	UNLV	Mountain West	112	3
26	Florida	Southeastern	116	5.5	92	North Texas	American Athletic	101	3.5	21	USC	Big Ten	118	5.5
117	Florida Atlantic	American Athletic	95.5	3	85	No Illinois	Mid-American	103	3.5	82	USF	American Athletic	104	3
120	Florida Int'l	Conference USA	95	2.5	85	Northwestern	Big Ten	103	3	51	Utah	Big 12	111	5.5
76	Florida St	American Coast	104	6	7	Notre Dame	Independent	124	5.5	94	Utah St	Mountain West	100	4
76	Fresno St	Mountain West	104	4.5	4	Ohio State	Big Ten	128	6.5	127	UTEP	Conference USA	89	3
2	Georgia	Southeastern	129	6.5	76	Ohio U	Mid-American	104	4.5	68	UTSA	American Athletic	106	3
105	Geo Southern	Sun Belt	98.5	4	23	Oklahoma	Southeastern	116	5.5	63	Vanderbilt	Southeastern	108	4
104	Georgia St	Sun Belt	99	2	60	Oklahoma St	Big 12	109	5	68	Virginia	Atlantic Coast	106	4
39	Georgia Tech	Atlantic Coast	114	4.5	85	Old Dominion	Sun Belt	103	2.5	46	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	112	5
112	Hawaii	Mountain West	96.5	4.5	7	Ole Miss	Southeastern	124	5.5	82	Wake Forest	Atlantic Coast	104	4.5
64	Houston	Big 12	107	4	1	Oregon	Big Ten	132	5.5	40	Washington	Big Ten	113	5.5
46	Illinois	Big Ten	112	4.5	94	Oregon St	Pac-12	100	5.5	67	Washington St	Pac-12	107	4
12	Indiana	Big Ten	120	4.5	7	Penn St	Big Ten	124	6	50	West Virginia	Big 12	111	5.5
36	Iowa	Big Ten	114	5	43	Pitt	Atlantic Coast	112	4.5	100	W Kentucky	Conference USA	99.5	4
23	Iowa St	Big 12	116	5.5	107	Purdue	Big Ten	98	4.5	112	W Michigan	Mid-American	96.5	4
72	Jacksonville St	Conference USA	105	5.5	100	Rice	American Athletic	99.5	3	41	Wisconsin	Big Ten	113	5.5
72	James Madison	Sun Belt	105	4.5						116	Wyoming	Mountain West	96	5

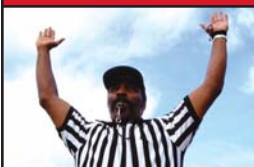
Rnk: Overall rank in NFL • PWR: Numerical team power rating • HF: Numerical home field value

Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF	Rnk	Team	Conf/Div	PWR	HF
NFL														
11	Arizona Cardinals	NFC West	102.5	2.5	11	Houston Texans	AFC South	102.5	2.5	8	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	104	1.5
20	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	100.5	2.5	23	Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	99	2	24	New England Pats	AFC East	97.5	1.5
1	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	109.5	3.5	25	Jacksonville Jaguars	AFC South	97	1.5	28	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	95.5	2
5	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	106	3	6	Kansas City Chiefs	AFC West	105.5	2	31	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	93.5	1.5
31	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	93.5	1.5	29	Las Vegas Raiders	AFC West	94.5	2.5	22	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	100	2
27	Chicago Bears	NFC North	96.6	2.5	11	L.A. Chargers	AFC West	102.5	1.5	2	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	107.5	1.5
10	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	103	2	11	L.A. Rams	NFC West	102.5	2	11	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	102.5	1.5
20	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	100.5	2.5	18	Miami Dolphins	AFC East	102	2.5	11	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	102.5	1.5
29	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	94.5	3						11	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	102.5	1.5
19	Denver Broncos	AFC West	101.5	2.5						9	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	103.5	2
2	Detroit Lions	NFC North	107.5	2.5						26	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	96.5	2
2	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	107.5	2.5						7	Wash Commanders	NFC East	105	1.5

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FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024		3★ BEST BET	4★ BEST BET	5★ BEST BET
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2024 PRO FOOTBALL - DECEMBER 25-30

Listed next to the games below are two entries: **OL** is the opening line on the contest and **PB** is the **PLAYBOOK** margin.
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All times listed are Eastern Standard Time (Red type indicates time change) • Games in Official International Rotation sequence • Dates & times subject to change

		OL	PB			OL	PB			OL	PB
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25				411	DENVER 4:30 PM CINCINNATI ★ NFL	3'	13	421	NY JETS 1:00 PM BUFFALO CBS	10	8
401	KANSAS CITY 1:00 PM	2		415	ARIZONA 8:00 PM LA RAMS NFL	5	12	423	CAROLINA 1:00 PM TAMPA BAY ★ CBS	8'	16
402	PITTSBURGH NETFLIX		3	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29				425	GREEN BAY 1:00 PM MINNESOTA FOX	1'	
403	BALTIMORE 4:30 PM	3'	8					427	DALLAS 4:25 PM PHILADELPHIA FOX	8'	7
404	HOUSTON NETFLIX			409	INDIANAPOLIS 1:00 PM NY GIANTS FOX	7'	3	429	MIAMI 4:05 PM CLEVELAND CBS	5'	8
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26				410	ATLANTA 8:20 PM WASHINGTON NBC	4	7	MONDAY, DECEMBER 30			
405	SEATTLE ★ 8:15 PM	3	11	417	LAS VEGAS 1:00 PM NEW ORLEANS FOX	2'	3	431	DETROIT ESPN	3'	
406	CHICAGO PRIME			418	TENNESSEE 1:00 PM JACKSONVILLE CBS	1		432	SAN FRANCISCO		3
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28				419							
407	LA CHARGERS 1:00 PM	5'		420							
408	N ENGLAND ★ NFL		6								

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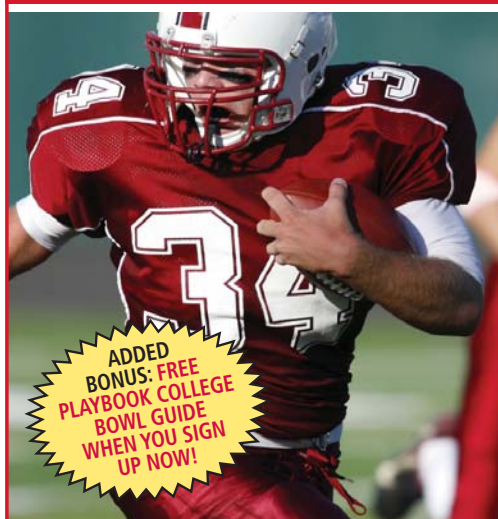
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2023 10-Star Bowl Game Of The Year: Alabama (+2.5) 20, Michigan 27 – LOSER
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2021 10-Star Bowl Game Of The Year: Oklahoma State (+1) 37, Notre Dame 35 – WINNER!
2020 10-Star Bowl Game Of The Year: Ohio State (+7.5) 49, Clemson 28 – WINNER!
2019 10-Star Bowl Game Of The Year: Oregon (+3) 28, Wisconsin 27 – WINNER!
2018 10-Star Bowl Game Of The Year: Michigan State (+1.5) 6, Oregon 7 – WINNER!