

# Marc Lawrence's Weekly **PLAYBOOK**<sup>®</sup> \$12

**THE BEST FOOTBALL NEWSLETTER ON THE PLANET™**

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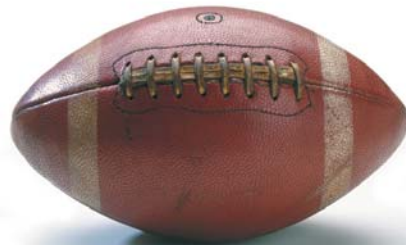
**Marc's 10-Star and 5-Star Bowl Games Are Here!**

# **BEST BETS 9-3 LAST FOUR WEEKS!**

**84% 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***



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# WOULDN'T IT BE NICE

*A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping*

*Wouldn't it be nice  
if we were older?  
Then we wouldn't have  
to wait so long  
And wouldn't it be nice  
to live together  
In the kind of world  
where we belong?*

It was the opening track and one of the most memorable songs on the Beach Boys 'Pet Sounds' album. It reflects the desires and dreams of young love and the hopes for a perfect, idyllic future. The lyrics convey a sense of optimism and a wishful longing for a time of achieving goals. It was a timeless song that resonated with listeners due to its universal themes of longing, idealism, and yearning for a better future.

Sort of what it's like for NFL teams looking to go from "worst" to first" in their division from one season to the next. The answer, in one word, is "horrible" – when they host teams the following season.

Sure, it would be nice for the sojourn to continue, but the fact of the matter is it does not. That's confirmed by the fact that since 2004 these division "worst-to-first" squads have gone a measly 74-97-4 ATS overall in follow-up campaigns.

So while the phrase "Wouldn't It Be

Nice" conveys a longing for a better and more harmonious existence while encapsulating a brighter and more fulfilling future, it simply doesn't work for teams in the NFL. who have gone from the 'outhouse to the penthouse' in one season.

Our trusted 'Well Oiled Machine' attests to the same contention, reminding us that had we had the foresight to...

**PLAY AGAINST any NFL  
home favorite who went from  
'worst to first' in its division  
from one season to the next**

...we'd be sitting on a potential lottery ticket as these home chalk artists have gone 48-74-3 in this role since 2004, including **15-33 ATS** in division contests. Last year the Cincinnati Bengals dressed up four times in this role as a division home favorite and responded by going **1-3 ATS**.

Best of all there is a mind blowing **1-13 ATS** subset inside this play that you can find in the **Betting Tools** section on the **PlaybookSports.com** site.

For what it's worth, Jacksonville hosts **Carolina** this weekend, with the Jaguars looking more like the 2021

squad as opposed to the unit that went from worst to first last season – which is great news for the Panthers.

So remember what the Beach Boys taught us:

*Maybe if we think and wish and  
hope and pray It might come true  
Baby, then there wouldn't be a  
single thing we couldn't do  
We could be married.  
Oh, wouldn't it be nice?*

**THIS IS IT:** On the heels of my 10-Star NFL Game of the Year winner with Baltimore over San Francisco last week, it's my once-a-year **10-Star College Bowl Game of the Year** – and – my **5-Star College Bowl Game of the Month** plays and they go this week! Best of all, you can join my "One-Two Punch" special bundle offer which includes both the 10-Star and 5-Star plays, plus every bowl and NFL release I make starting now through Monday, January 1, all for just \$159. If these two plays are anything like last year's **10-Star Bowl Game of the Year** winner on Ohio State, you won't want to miss a single winner. Click here to log on now at [PlaybookSports.com](http://PlaybookSports.com) or call me toll-free at **800.321.7777** – you'll be glad you did!

*Marc Lawrence*

## AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK

PLAY ON any sub .500  
NFL road dog off a  
SUATS non-division loss  
if they are playing with  
triple revenge-exact against  
a division opponent.

**Play ON:**  
**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (12/31)**

## END OF THE LINE

**ATS W-L Record  
Since 1980:**

**21-4  
(84%)**

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## INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

*Las Vegas Raiders' interim head coaches are  
7-3 ATS when coming off a win the past three  
seasons, including 5-1 ATS as a dog, and 3-0 ATS  
against foes coming off a SUATS loss.*

# 2-MINUTE HANDICAP



FOR A COMPLETE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP OF EVERY GAME ON TODAY'S CARD, VISIT [www.PLAYBOOKSPORTS.com](http://www.PLAYBOOKSPORTS.com)

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

## College Bowl 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™, PlaybookSports.com™ and PLAYBOOK.CUBE™, and may not be reused or disseminated in any form without express written consent of the publisher.

## NFL Games

### TEAMS KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS

#### Thursday, December 28

##### FENWAY BOWL

SMU 0-4 SU all-time versus ACC... Lashlee: 6-10 ATS vs. 500 > opp  
Boston College ACC bowlers off BB losses are 9-3 ATS vs. foes off BB wins

##### PINSTRIPES BOWL

Rutgers Big Ten is 11-2 SU and 10-3 ATS in bowl games vs. ACC  
Miami (FL) Cristobal: 1-6 ATS L7 vs. foe off BB losses

##### POP-TARTS BOWL

NC State Doeren: 3-6 ATS w/Wolfpack vs. foe off SU favorite loss  
Kansas State Kleiman: 4-0 SUATS off a SU favorite loss vs. foe off a win

##### ALAMO BOWL

Arizona Pac-12 bowlers are 2-25 ATS versus foes coming off win  
Oklahoma 5-0 SU vs. Pac-12 foes... Big 12 bowl dogs are 12-4 ATS vs. Pac-12

#### Friday, December 29

##### GATOR BOWL

Clemson 11-4 ATS L15 bowl games... No. 122 in Red Zone Offense this year  
Kentucky 24-1 SU and 14-5-1 ATS in L25 non-conference games

##### SUN BOWL

Notre Dame 4-0 SUATS vs. Pac-12 off SUATS loss... Freeman: 4-0 ATS w/ rest  
Oregon State Pac-12 bowlers are 0-15 ATS since 2016 coming off a SUATS loss

##### LIBERTY BOWL

Memphis 0-6 SUATS in bowl games... 0-8 ATS coming off a SUATS win  
Iowa State 3-1 ATS in bowls coming off a win... 8-1 ATS as a fav off dog role

##### COTTON BOWL

Missouri 2-8 ATS in bowls coming off a win... #1 team Red Zone Offense  
Ohio State 2-11 SU and 3-10 ATS vs. SEC foes... Ryan: 56-7 SU all games

#### Saturday, December 30

##### PEACH BOWL

Ole Miss 12-4 SUATS L16 bowls... Kiffin: the dog is 4-1 SUATS in bowl games  
Penn State Big Ten bowl favs > 3 points are 6-11 SU and 4-13 ATS vs. SEC opp

##### MUSIC CITY BOWL

Auburn 1-5 SUATS last six bowls... 2-6 SU and 1-7 ATS L8 vs. Big Ten foes  
Maryland 7-1 ATS off a DD ATS win... 5-1 ATS L6 non-conference games

##### ORANGE BOWL

Georgia AP Preseason #1 teams are 9-2 SUATS as favs off SU fav loss  
Florida State ACC bowlers off a win are 3-14 ATS vs. foes off a SU favorite loss

##### ARIZONA BOWL

Toledo Bowlers off conf champ loss are 26-19-2 ATS vs. foe off BB wins  
Wyoming 6-1-1 ATS L8 bowl games... Bohl: 17-6-1 ATS coming off BB wins

#### Monday, January 1

##### RELIAQUEST BOWL

Wisconsin Big Ten bowlers are 0-9 SU and 1-8 ATS as DD dogs s/2009  
LSU Heisman Trophy winning bowlers are 7-12 ATS as a fav of -7 > pts

##### CITRUS BOWL

Iowa No. 5 Fewest Penalties this season (46)... No. 131 Overall Offense  
Tennessee No. 130 (worst) nation in Time of Possession (24 MPG)

##### FIESTA BOWL

Liberty 17-4 ATS off a win facing .500 > opp... No. 2 Time of Possession  
Oregon Pac-12 bowlers are 2-25 ATS versus foes coming off a win

##### ROSE BOWL

Alabama SEC champion is 17-4 SU and 15-6 ATS in next bowl game  
Michigan Harbaugh: 6-1-1 ATS off DD win vs. foe off SU dog win

##### SUGAR BOWL

Texas 13-36 ATS as a favorite vs. undefeated opp  
Washington Undefeated bowl dogs of 7< pts are 12-8 ATS vs non-undefeated foes

### TEAMS KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS

#### Thursday, December 28

Ny Jets SERIES: 7-2 L9... 5-2 L7 vs AFC North... 0-5 on Thursdays  
CLEVELAND 6-1 Thursday HG... 5-1 bef div RG... 0-6 L6 vs AFC East

#### Saturday, December 30

Detroit 10-2 L12 vs .666 > opp... 4-1 Saturday RG... 8-2 aft div RG  
DALLAS SERIES: 3-1 L4... 5-1 L6 vs NFC North... 1-4 Saturday HG

#### Sunday, December 31

Miami 16-4 as non-div conf RD's 5 < pts... 5-2 L7 vs AFC North  
BALTIMORE SERIES: 8-2 L10... 5-2 bef div HG... 4-2 aft non-conf RG

New England 5-2 Game 16... 0-4 L4 as div RD's... 1-4 as dogs 8 > pts  
BUFFALO SERIES: 3-1 L4... 3-0 aft Sat gm... 6-2 as conf HF's > 7 pts

Atlanta 7-1 in 1st of BB RG... 0-5 as non-div RD's 4 < pts  
CHICAGO SERIES: 4-1 L5... 7-3 in 2nd of BB HG... 1-4-1 vs NFC South

Tennessee 4-1 L5 as div RD's... 0-7 bef Jack... 1-4 L2Y w/ div revenge  
HOUSTON SERIES: 5-1 L6... 6-3 in 2nd of BB HG... 0-4 L4 div HG

Las Vegas SERIES: Visitor 5-0... 4-0 aft Monday gm... 3-1 aft div RG  
INDIANAPOLIS 7-3 as non-div HF's < 5 pts... 3-10 vs opp off Mon gm

Carolina SERIES: 3-0 L3... 10-4 L14 vs AFC South... 0-7 bef div HG  
JACKSONVILLE 0-4 aft TB... 0-4 as favs > 7 pts... 1-10 L11 non-conf HG

La Rams 5-1 aft score 30+ pts... 5-2 away vs NFC East... 7-3 bef SF  
NY GIANTS SERIES: 9-2 L11... 5-1 in 1st of BB HG... 0-6 L6 vs NFC West

Arizona SERIES: 8-1 L9... 10-0 vs NFC East... 0-4 as RD's > 7 pts  
PHILADELPHIA 5-1 aft div HG... 5-2 bef div RG... 1-5 L6 vs NFC West

New Orleans SERIES: Visitor 4-0... 5-0 w/ triple revenge... 4-0 aft Thur gm  
TAMPA BAY 8-1 vs triple revenge... 0-9 bef Caro... 0-5-1 in 2nd of BB HG

San Francisco 10-0 aft non-conf HG... 5-0 L3Y vs NFC East... 2-6 bef Rams  
WASHINGTON 5-2 aft non-conf RG... 0-3-1 bef Dal... 1-3 vs NFC West L2Y

Pittsburgh 5-0 aft div HG... 4-1 bef div RG... 4-2 aft Saturday gm  
SEATTLE SERIES: 3-0 L3... 0-4 vs opp off Sat gm... 1-4 vs AFC North

Cincinnati SERIES: 4-1 L5... 5-0 in 2nd of BB RG... 7-1-1 vs AFC West  
KANSAS CITY 4-0 vs opp off Saturday gm... 1-4 L5 vs AFC North

La Chargers SERIES: Visitor 3-0... 6-1-1 bef div HG... 7-3 aft Saturday gm  
DENVER 4-1 in 2nd of BB HG... 0-7 L7 as div HF's... 0-3 aft NEng

Green Bay 5-1 L6 as div RD's... 3-1 bef div HG... 6-2 in 2nd of BB RG  
MINNESOTA SERIES: Host 4-1... 1-3 L4 as div HF's... 2-5 in 2nd of BB HG

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## PRO FOOTBALL

Thursday, December 28

CLEVELAND over NY Jets by 10

Since veteran Joe Flacco became the starting quarterback of the Cleveland Browns (10-5), receiver Amari Cooper and tight end David Njoku have absolutely incinerated opponents. Cooper, in particular, has dominated. Against Houston, he hauled in 11 passes for a Browns' single-game record 265 yards, giving him 451 yards and three touchdowns over the last three games. And speaking of Flacco, no quarterback in the league has thrown for more yards than in his seven contests with Cleveland. Meanwhile, they have gone longer without a division crown (1989) than any team in the league. They are not going to catch Baltimore, but a win tonight sews up Cleveland's third postseason since joining the league as an expansion team in 1999. The parade of injuries to the league's most injured crew continues to pile up with the valuable leg of PK Dustin Hopkins (hamstring; 33/36 FG attempts, including 8-for-8 from 50+ yards) and punter Corey Bojorquez (quad) both in question at press time. The Browns signed Riley Patterson, who was waived by the Detroit Lions on Dec. 19. For the Lions this year Patterson was 15-for-17 in field goal attempts and 35-for-37 on extra point attempts. Jets' signal caller Trevor Siemian became the 59th different quarterback to start a game this season when he led the Jets to a 30-28 victory over Washington despite a jaw-dropping 14 penalties for 150 yards by the Flyboys. Given the Jets **0-5 ATS** mark on Thursdays, and 3-9 ATS effort after hosting NFC foes, plus their 5-11 SUATS mark in games when coming off a win under Robert Saleh – along with Cleveland's **6-1 ATS** mark at home on Thursdays and its recent **5-0 SUATS** mark in the Dawg Pound since their Bye week this season – we'll be brown bagging it tonight.

Saturday, December 30

5★ BEST BET

DALLAS over Detroit by 16

Detroit clinched its first division title since 1993 last week and now has its sights set higher. After turning the page, the team will focus their attentions on securing as high a playoff-seed as possible. This is, however, the first time in the franchise's 94-season history that it has managed 20 regular-season wins over a two-year period. Add it all up, and it sounds like a bit too much champagne to us. Based on common opponents the Lions are currently 3-1 and the Eagles 4-2 this season. Thus, they will hold the tiebreaker over Philadelphia in the NFC Playoff race should they win out. The problem today, though, is the recently-scorched Cowboys currently sit one game behind both the Eagles and Lions and are looking to crash the party. They are also riding a 15-0 SU and 12-3 ATS run at Jerry's World, including a **5-0 ATS** log when coming off a loss. Detroit enters **1-5 ATS** away when coming off an away game, while the 'Boys are **5-1 ATS** against the NFC North. Better yet, the Cowboys are 12-6 ATS since 1990 at home in Last Home Games against foes coming off a win, including **8-0 SU** and **7-1 ATS** with a .600 or greater win percentage. We saved the best for last, though, with **THE CLINCHER: Dallas is 10-1 SUATS as a favorite in games when coming off a loss, including 6-0 SUATS against foes coming off a win.**

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Sunday, December 31

4★ BEST BET

Miami over BALTIMORE by 8

It may have been ugly, but Dolphins head coach Mike McDaniel could care less. All we know is last week's 22-20 slugfest over Dallas kept his team one game back of the top seed in the AFC Playoff Picture. And don't discount their chances today. The Fish have won the stats each of their last eight games while surrendering 244 YPG in the process. Suddenly, Vic Fangio's defense is taking center stage over Miami's famed offense. Should the Dolphins win out, they will hoist up the AFC East crown. That may be a tall order, though, for a team off its first win this season against a winning foe who will taking on Buffalo next week. Baltimore returns home off its statement-making win over the 49ers last week knowing that all three of the Ravens' losses this season were certainly winnable – one in overtime, another by two points and the other by a touchdown. Still, despite last week's romp over San Francisco, the Niners are still favored to win this year's Super Bowl at +200 at the SuperBook in Las Vegas, ahead of Baltimore at +400 and Miami at +700. Just to prove the Ravens are real, they've defeated all three NFC teams in their schedule that are currently seeds in the NFC Playoff Picture – San Francisco, L.A. Rams, and Seattle. A monster 5-0 turnover edge keyed the Black Birds' upset win last week as they are now on a +9 net TO edge in their last four contests. The problem today, though, is that Baltimore is just 7-7 SU and 4-10 ATS laying points in its last 14 games when coming off a win as an underdog – including **1-9 ATS** against foes with at least one win on the season and **0-8 ATS** as a favorite of three or more points. That fits like a glove for the Dolphins and their 16-4 ATS mark as a non-division road dog of 5 or fewer points. With Miami **8-1 ATS** as a dog after dressing up as a favorite, we'll be on the take today. On a sidebar note: Pro Football Talk's Mike Florio, easily the biggest wannabe know-it-all proved he knows nothing when it comes to picking winners. On his pregame prediction of last week's 49ers-Ravens clash, Florio said, "The 49ers kick the (expletive) out of the Ravens on Monday night. I'm sorry. I know that's disrespectful to the Ravens, but let's be realistic. They've got to fly across the country on Christmas night, and the 49ers are waiting. And the 49ers are going to dismantle the Ravens," Florio said. We're not sure what pictures Florio has of NBC executives, but the guy proved he is clueless. However, getting back to the point we point to **THE CLINCHER: Baltimore is 0-3 ATS as a home favorite behind Lamar Jackson when coming off a SU underdog win.**

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## **BUFFALO over New England by 8**

True to their leader, the Pats refuse to fold the tent, as last week's upset win at Denver marked the fifth time in the last six games they've outgained an opponent. New England's win over the Broncos was an absolute disaster for New England as it will likely prove costly to their status in the 2024 NFL Draft. The Patriots have been in the running for the top pick all season, but their hopes of getting said pick are all but finished. They are now two games ahead of the Panthers with as many games to go. Following Sunday's action, the Patriots now hold the No. 4 pick in April's draft behind the Arizona Cardinals and Washington Commanders as they lose a tiebreaker to the latter. For a very long time now, there have been two can't-miss quarterback prospects in this draft with USC's Caleb Williams and North Carolina's Drake Maye. The Patriots have been in prime position all season to draft one of those two as their quarterback of the future, but not anymore. If the Patriots win another game, which is very possible with a home game against the New York Jets to close the season, they could find themselves picking as low as No. 7. You can rest assured the higher-ups in the New England organization were not happy with last week's results, and while a win in Buffalo on Sunday appears dim, the Pats could be on the verge of falling out of the Top 10 in this year's draft. On the other side of the field, winners of three in a row and four of five, Buffalo will be a playoff team with two more wins, and might even win a fourth straight AFC East title but will need the Miami Dolphins to lose to Baltimore. Hence, there could be a tad of scoreboard watching today, and if so, you don't want to be laying any unnecessary lumber in this tilt. Not with Buffalo riding a **0-7 ATS** log as double-digit chalk. Take it if you play it.

## **Atlanta over CHICAGO by 3**

The Falcons turned to backup QB Taylor Heinicke last week when the Desmond Ridder project was finally put on hold. Heinicke made his third start of the season in Week 16 and turned in his best performance of the year. The veteran signal-caller completed nearly 70 percent of his passes for 229 yards, one touchdown, and zero turnovers. While many of his completions were at or near the line of scrimmage, the bottom line is the Dirty Birds improved to 3-2 since their Bye week, and their playoff hopes still remain on life support as they are still alive as the No. 9 seed in the NFC Playoff Picture, thanks to losses by the Saints and Vikings last week. Meanwhile, the Bears have quietly gone 6-1 ATS in their last seven games thanks to a defense that has surrendered 21 PPG in the process, and at 6-9 in the season are mathematically alive in this year's NFC playoff race. However, QB Justin Fields brings a **3-7 SU** and **2-7-1 ATS** career mark in his NFL career in games in which he is not taking 3 or more points. With Atlanta entering **7-1 ATS** in the first of back-to-back road games, and Chicago **1-4-1 ATS** in its last six games against the NFC South, we'll take a flier with the Falcons.

## **HOUSTON over Tennessee by 8**

Despite three losses in the past five games, the Texans remain in the thick of the AFC playoff race, sitting at No. 8 entering this second-to-last week of the season. They received promising news earlier in the week when it was announced that rookie phenom

QB C.J. Stroud would be practicing this week as he looks to shake the cloudiness of being in concussion protocol the past two weeks. While its path to the playoffs is murky due to Week 16 losses by the Indianapolis Colts and Jacksonville Jaguars, Houston is still in control of its destiny. Veteran quarterback Case Keenum could not replicate his success from the previous week. Before being benched in favor of Davis Mills, Keenum finished with 11-of-17 for 62 yards, with two interceptions and a 31.6 passer rating. Hence, Mattress Mack and sports fans in Houston anxiously hold their breath awaiting his playing status today. The Texans have cashed in 5 of the last 6 games in this series and are 5-0 ATS when coming off a home loss. With Tennessee going nowhere other than home to host Jacksonville next week to conclude a disappointing season, look for the Titans to tumble to 0-8 ATS in games before facing the Jaguars – assuming C.J. is back behind center today.

## **UPSET GAME OF THE WEEK UPSET**

### **Las Vegas over INDIANAPOLIS by 6**

The Colts and Raiders are familiar with each other, as this Sunday will be the third straight matchup in three consecutive seasons, albeit with three different head coaches in as many seasons for Las Vegas. It's important to remember that while the Colts currently hold down the No. 7 and final seed in the AFC Playoff Picture, the Raiders are still mathematically alive in the playoff chase. They also own the better points differential this season than Indianapolis and seem to have taken to interim coach Antonio Pierce, going 4-3 SU and 5-1-1 ATS since he took the reins at the beginning of November. The Well-Oiled Machine chips in noting that dogs seeking revenge in the penultimate week of the NFL season, coming off a SU underdog win, are 40-19 ATS, including 17-5 ATS against foes coming off a loss. With Indy just **1-6 ATS** when hosting AFC West opponents and 3-10 ATS against foes coming off a Monday Night contest, look for the visiting team in this series to improve to **6-0 ATS** here. Seconding the motion is **THE CLINCHER: The Raiders reside in this week's INCREDIBLE STAT on page 2.**

### **JACKSONVILLE over Carolina by 1**

The Jaguars are in trouble, and they know it. Not only is QB Trevor Lawrence operating with a sprained shoulder (check his status), but the team is also falling apart at the seams. They have been leaking oil like the Exxon Valdez, bringing a 0-4 SUATS and ITS (In The Stats) ledger in its last four games into this contest. Making matters worse, the Jags are **1-10 ATS** in their last eleven home games against NFC opposition, as well as 0-4 ATS as a favorite of more than 7 points. And we didn't even mention Jack's 4-9 SU and 3-10 ATS mark as home chalk the past six seasons. These are not the attributes one looks for when laying a touchdown. Carolina enters with a 10-4 ATS ledger in its last fourteen games against the AFC South, as well as a 3-0 SUATS mark in this series. With the **MIDWEEK ALERT** reporting the Panthers sport the league's No. 5 overall defense, as opposed to Jacksonville's No. 25 overall defense, the points become the play in this overlay – especially with Marc's **BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW** article fading the Jags as well.

### **LA Rams over NY GIANTS by 1**

The Giants find themselves in the unenviable position of being in the middle of a Philly cheese sandwich today. However, a deeper look at the menu finds Big Blue 9-6 SU and 10-4 ATS in games after facing the Eagles, including **5-0 SUATS** at home. However, it's understandable now that they are officially out of playoff contention, its **0-6 ATS** mark against NFC West foes might surface. Before knee-jerking here, though, our Well-Oiled Machine notes that NFL home dogs are 82-50-6 ATS during the penultimate week of the season, including 40-17-1 ATS against non-division foes. With the Rams surging since the return of QB Matthew Stafford following their Bye week (5-1 and holding down the No. 6 seed in the NFC Playoff Picture), they are being priced accordingly. In addition, they sport a winning record for the first time this season. However, they are also **1-5 ATS** after playing on Thursdays. With that, behind QB Tyrod Taylor, look for the G-Men to improve on their **5-0 ATS** log when coming off a division road game, as well as **5-1 ATS** in the first of consecutive home games here today. Hold your nose and grab the points.

*(continued on next page)*

## PHILADELPHIA over Arizona by 8

It's safe to say that QB Jalen Hurts and WR A.J. Brown pulled the Eagles out of a rut in last week's disapproving 33-25 win over the stubborn New York Giants. But at this stage of the season, it was a badly needed victory as it stopped the bleeding and kept Philly in the chase for the top spot in the NFC playoff seeding. Today, though, they'll need to improve off a lousy **1-5 ATS** mark of late against the NFC West and an 0-4 ATS current ATS losing record. With it, the Cardinals enter **10-0 ATS** of late against the NFC East, as well as **8-1 ATS** of late in this series. Until the Green Birds get their act back together, they are simply too risky to be laying double digits in a NY Giants division sandwich.

## 3★ BEST BET

### New Orleans over TAMPA BAY by 10

It's safe to say that the month of December has been kind to Tampa Bay. The Buccaneers (8-7) have won each of the four games they've played in the final month of 2023, and quarterback Baker Mayfield has been particularly efficient. Ironically, Mayfield's stats this month have overpowered those of new Cleveland super-hero Joe Flacco's 85.1 Passer Rating, as Baker has thrown for 1,010 yards and has posted a 9-to-1 touchdown-to-interception ratio in December, good for a 110.6 QB Rating this month. The Bucs currently hold down the No. 4 seed in the NFC Playoff picture, one leg up on division rivals Atlanta and today's invader, New Orleans. In order for the Saints to avoid missing the playoffs for the third straight season, they know the task at hand. New Orleans must beat both Tampa Bay and Atlanta to finish the year with a 9-8 record. Additionally, the Buccaneers must lose their season finale at the Carolina Panthers. If that scenario plays out, the Saints would be the NFC South champion. If the Saints lose either of their last two contests, they will be officially eliminated from postseason contention. There is no other scenario where New Orleans can win their division. In addition, under head coach Dennis Allen, the Saints also have an ugly 1-13 record against teams that are .500 or better at the time they play them. However, they will enter today's game mathematically alive in the NFC South with a **5-0 ATS** record when seeking triple revenge. On the flip side, the Bucs are **0-9 ATS** in games before facing the Panthers, as well as **0-5-1 ATS** at home off a home game. We saved the best for last, though, with **THE CLINCHER: See this week's AWESOME ANGLE on page 2.**

## San Francisco over WASHINGTON by 10

After falling behind 20-0 for the second consecutive week, the Commanders turned to proven veteran Jacoby Brissett, who went 18-of-23 for 224 yards with three scores in the past two weeks. This week, we expect to see Brissett under center from the get-go and with it he brings a 14-12 SU and 15-10-1 ATS career mark into this contest in home games this season, including **4-0 ATS** as a dog of more than three points. Meanwhile, the Niners can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that today's opponent does not reside in the AFC North, against whom the Niners are 0-3 SUATS this season. Despite last week's blood-letting against the Ravens, the 49ers still lead the league in net scoring differential (+177), whereas the Commanders reside at the other end of the spectrum with a -144 net scoring differential. In addition, the 49ers bring a lofty **10-0 ATS** record into the contest after hosting an AFC squad and a **5-0 ATS** ledger over the last three years in NFC East encounters. However, in the Commanders' defense, much like their division brethren Giants, our Well-Oiled Machine notes that NFL home dogs are 82-50-6 ATS during the penultimate week of the season, including 40-17-1 ATS against non-division foes. That, and Washington's 6-1 ATS mark in games when coming off an ATS win when taking on foes off an ATS loss, is enough to put the stop sign up.

## Pittsburgh over SEATTLE by 3

Third string QB Mason Rudolph not only kept the Steelers' playoff hopes alive but also Mike Tomlin's winning-season streak intact with an impressive performance off the bench in last week's scintillating 34-11 victory over Cincinnati. Still, Pittsburgh will face playoff elimination this week for the first time this season but are still in control of keeping their chances alive before the final week of the season. However, they'd need everything to go wrong in order to be out of the race prior to their Week 18 trip to Baltimore. And a win over the Seattle Seahawks today shuts down any chance of them being kicked out of the playoff picture. To put it simply, if the Steelers lose



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and the Colts, Bills, Chargers, and Jaguars, or Texans win, Pittsburgh will be eliminated from the 2023 playoff race. On the other side of the field, Seattle enters off a pair of 20-17 victories over Philadelphia and Tennessee and currently clings to the No. 7 and final playoff seed in the NFC. Ironically, what we didn't mention, though, is the Seabags are on a five-game ITS (In The Stats) losing slide, meaning winning games with smoke and mirrors has become commonplace for Pete Carroll's crew – sort of what the Steelers managed to accomplish until they finally won their first game in the stats against Cincinnati the final week of November. The Black-and-Gold bring a 5-0 ATS mark into this fray after hosting a division foe, while Seattle is 0-4 ATS against opponents coming off a Saturday contest. Finally, the Well-Oiled Machine chips in, noting that dogs in the penultimate week of the NFL season – read: Pittsburgh – coming off a SU underdog win, are 64-44-1 ATS. You know what to do.

## KANSAS CITY over Cincinnati by 12

Who would have believed it? The second-to-last week of the season finds these two teams with a combined 13 losses on the season. Yet both are alive in the AFC playoff race, with the Bengals currently resting in the No. 10 slot and the Chiefs precariously holding on to the No. 3 seed. More surprising, Kansas City enters Arrowhead on the three-game home losing skid, a role in which they stand 9-3 SU and 10-2 ATS when arriving off three previous home losses exactly, including **7-0 SUATS** versus .540 or greater foes. The good news, though, is a win today wraps up the Chiefs 8th straight division title. Meanwhile, Cincinnati can blame an 0-5 ledger in division games this season on its 'on the outside looking in' playoff standing. They can take solace in knowing they are 5-0 ATS in the second of consecutive road games, and 7-1-1 ATS in their last nine tiffs against AFC West opposition – but more importantly, a repulsive **1-7 ATS** in games when both teams enter off SU losses as a favorite. On the flip side, Kansas City is **4-0 ATS** against foes coming off a Saturday contest. Look for the Chiefs to take care of business today.

## DENVER over LA Chargers by 2

The Broncos fell to 7-8-1 SU and 3-12-1 ATS as a favorite behind suddenly over-the-hill, 35-year-old QB Russell Wilson, who is likely to sit the final two games of the season to avoid a potential injury and a crippling \$37M salary scheduled in 2024 which he is scheduled to receive next season if he's still on the roster. Adding to the mess, WR Courtland Sutton has entered concussion protocol and is doubtful today. With Jarrett Stidham likely behind center, it doesn't bode well for a team that is currently **0-7 ATS** the last seven games as a division home favorite. And while the Chargers have quarterback issues of their own, they appear revived following the departure of former head coach Brandon Staley. Given L.A.'s 8-2 ATS log when coming off consecutive losses and the Broncos' **1-9 ATS** ledger when laying points in consecutive games, we'll plug in with the Bolts today.

## Green Bay over MINNESOTA by 3

The NFL elected not to flex this Sunday Night prime-time contest. Our question is, why would they? These two teams each sit on the perimeter, looking in at the NFL Playoff race. With their 30-24 loss to the Lions on Sunday and the Seahawks' comeback win over the Titans, the banged-up Vikings no longer control their playoff destiny. Even if they win out, they'll need either the Rams or Seahawks to lose a game to setup a potential tiebreaker. Nick Mullens, the Vikings' fourth starting quarterback this season, threw four more interceptions in the Detroit loss, including a duck that ended hopes of a miraculous comeback in the final minute. Down the stretch, Mullens was missing two of his top three targets in T.J. Hockenson (out for the season with a knee injury) and Jordan Addison, who both left Sunday's contest with lower-

body injuries. Right tackle Brian O'Neill was also out. Defensively, the Vikings came into the day without top cornerback Byron Murphy Jr. and then lost starters Mekhi Blackmon and D.J. Wonnum to injuries during the game. Meanwhile, the Packers' defense is beginning to unravel, surrendering season-high yards in each of its last two games. Minnesota is just 1-4 in its last five games, but to their credit, the four losses have come by a total of 12 points, and they won the stats in four of the five contests, and the Vikings also beat the Packers, 24-10, in Green Bay two months ago. However, with the Packers **5-1 ATS** in their last six games as a division road dog, and **4-0 ATS** when coming off a road win. They are also 23-12-1 ATS in their last 36 Sunday Night contests, including **11-2-1 ATS** against foes coming off a SUATS loss. Minnesota's 2-8 ATS mark in its last ten home games seals it.

# 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 **2023 Playbook 'TOTALS' TIPSHEET** by **Victor King** – the definitive weekly OU newsletter. A single issue is only \$11.00. Rest-of-Season subscription is \$19.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2023 "Totals Train"! **\*This week's GAME 17 Playbook O/U TREND play: Bengals @ Chiefs 'UNDER' the TOTAL'**

## 2023 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK SEVENTEEN

GAME MATCHUPS	KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
<b>Ny Jets (Open: 35) CLEVELAND</b>	5-2 OU on Thursdays... but 0-6 OU away w/ OU 38.0 < pts... 1-4 OU L5 vs Clev... 2-6 OU Game 16... 2-5 OU bef NEng 5-0 OU L5 vs AFC East... 5-2 OU Game 16... but 0-11 OU bef Cin... 1-7-1 OU home w/ OU 40 < pts... 3-9 OU Thursdays
<b>Detroit (52) DALLAS</b>	6-0 OU bef div HG... 4-0 OU aft div RG... 5-1 OU vs NFC East... 8-3 OU aft Min... 3-1 OU 2nd of BB RG... but 2-6 OU Saturdays 6-1 OU non-div HF's 3 > pts... 8-2 OU L10 vs Det (55.3)... but 0-3 OU Game 16... 1-6 OU bef div RG... 1-4 OU bef Wash
<b>Miami (47.5) BALTIMORE</b>	4-1 OU L5 vs Bal (53.0)... 4-1 OU Game 16... 4-1 OU aft 3 straight HG... 3-1 OU bef Buf... but 2-4 OU L6 vs AFC North 8-3 OU aft Monday RG... but 0-6 OU aft non-conf RG... 0-5 OU bef Pit... 0-3 OU Game 16... 1-7 OU bef div HG
<b>New England (40) BUFFALO</b>	4-0 OU as dogs 8 > pts... 4-0 OU Game 16... 6-1 OU vs opp off Sat gm... but 0-3 OU aft Den... 1-6 OU in 2nd of BB RG 3-1 OU L4 div HG... 3-1 OU L4 vs NEng... 6-2 OU aft Sat gm... but 1-4 OU off SU win 3 < pts... 1-7 OU bef div HG
<b>Atlanta (37.5) CHICAGO</b>	2-0 OU L2 vs Chi... but 0-7 OU aft non-conf HG... 0-7 OU as non-div RD's 4 < pts... 2-13 OU bef div RG... 1-4 OU bef NORl 3-1 OU in 2nd of BB HG... 3-1 OU aft Arz... but 3-8 OU bef div RG... 3-6 OU Game 16... 3-6 OU L9 vs NFC South
<b>Tennessee (42.5) HOUSTON</b>	5-1 OU away off BB HG... 4-2 OU bef JAck... 6-3 OU bef div HG... but 1-5 OU w/ double revenge... 1-4 OU L5 div RG 5-1 OU bef div RG... but 1-4 OU L5 vs Ten (36.6)... 1-4 OU L5 div HG... 1-4 OU bef Indy... 2-6 OU Game 16
<b>Las Vegas (44) INDIANAPOLIS</b>	5-1 OU L6 vs Indy (57.0)... 3-1 OU aft div RG... 3-1 OU L4 vs AFC South... 4-2 OU bef Den... but 1-5 OU aft Mon gm 4-1 OU as non-div HF's 5 < pts... 5-2 OU vs opp off Mon gm... 5-2 OU in 1st of BB HG... but 1-7 OU home vs AFC West
<b>Carolina (39) JACKSONVILLE</b>	6-2 OU as RD's 7 > pts... but 0-6 OU aft GB... 0-5 OU L5 vs AFC South... 1-4 OU bef div HG... 1-3 OU bef TBay 5-2 OU as non-div favs 7 > pts... but 1-7 OU aft non-conf RG... 1-5 OU L6 non-conf HG... 1-4 OU bef Tenn... 2-6 OU Game 16
<b>La Rams (41.5) NY GIANTS</b>	8-1 OU off SUATS home fav win... but 0-5 OU bef SF... 1-6 OU L7 vs NFC East... 2-9 OU as RF's 4 > pts... 1-4 OU aft Thur gm 3-1 OU aft div RG... but 0-6 OU aft Monday gm... 2-17 OU in 1st of BB HG... 1-7 OU L8 vs NFC West... 1-4 OU aft Philly
<b>Arizona (47.5) PHILADELPHIA</b>	6-0 OU L6 vs .666 > opp... 4-1 OU aft Chi... 3-1 OU 2nd of BB RG... but 0-3 OU game 16... 3-11 OU L14 vs NFC East 0-5 OU aft div HG... 0-3 OU aft Monday HG... 1-7 OU aft NYG... 1-6 OU Game 16... 1-4 OU L5 vs NFC West
<b>New Orleans (40) TAMPA BAY</b>	3-1 OU aft Rams... but 0-6 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 0-3 OU Game 16... 2-9 OU L11 div RG... 1-3 OU aft Thursday gm 6-0 OU Game 16... 7-3 OU vs trip revenge... but 0-8 OU aft non-conf HG... 0-4 OU L4 vs NORl (26.7)... 1-5 OU 2nd of BB HG
<b>San Francisco (48) WASHINGTON</b>	7-1-1 OU as RF's 7 > pts... 5-1 OU aft non-conf HG... 5-1-1 OU Game 16... 6-3 OU aft Mon HG... but 2-5 OU L7 vs Wash 7-1 OU as dogs 10 > pts... 6-1 OU l7 vs .700 > opp... but 1-6 OU Game 16... 2-11 OU vs NFC West... 1-4 OU 1st of BB HG
<b>Pittsburgh (40.5) SEATTLE</b>	0-6-1 OU L7 vs NFC West... 0-4 OU bef Bal... 1-4 OU aft Cin... 1-4 OU off SU win 21 > pts... 3-9 OU in 1st of BB RG 4-0-1 OU vs opp off Sat gm... 3-0 OU bef div RG... 2-0-1 OU L3 vs Pit (55.3)... 5-1 OU Game 16... but 1-5 OU aft non-conf RG
<b>Cincinnati (45) KANSAS CITY</b>	3-10 OU L13 vs KC (41.8)... 2-6 OU as dogs in 2nd of BB RG... 3-9 OU L12 vs AFC West... 2-5 OU vs opp off Mon gm 0-5 OU aft div HG... 1-4 OU bef div RG... 1-4 OU vs opp off Sat gm... 2-6 OU aft LV... 2-5 OU in 2nd of BB HG
<b>La Chargers (38) DENVER</b>	7-2 OU L9 away vs Den (53.7)... 3-1 OU Game 16... 5-2 OU aft Buf... but 2-13 OU bef KC... 2-6 OU aft Saturday gm 3-0 OU Game 16... 7-2 OU aft NEng... 3-1 OU in 2nd of BB HG... but 1-4 OU bef LV... 2-6 OU bef div RG
<b>Green Bay (43.5) MINNESOTA</b>	3-0 OU Game 16... 3-1 OU L4 as div RD's... 8-3 OU bef Chi... but 1-5 OU bef div HG... 2-7 OU in 2nd of BB RG 4-0 OU Game 16... 4-0 OU aft Det... 11-2 OU bef div RG... 5-2 OU in 2nd of BB HG... but 2-7 OU L9 home vs GB

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Now in its 35th year, the WISE GUYS CONTEST is a Winners-take-all handicapping event sponsored by PLAYBOOK.com. All plays are graded against the lines posted after 4:00 PM Mondays via the WISE GUYS CONTEST Report. Each week below we'll post Single Plays from the Top 20. Following the Single play is their overall Win-Loss record / Double Play record / Total Points earned to date. \*Indicates Triple Play Won or Lost.

*Below are the Top 20 Contestants after Week 16 of the 2023 Wise Guys Contest (first-word alphabetical order) 1-One Point Single Plays Listed*

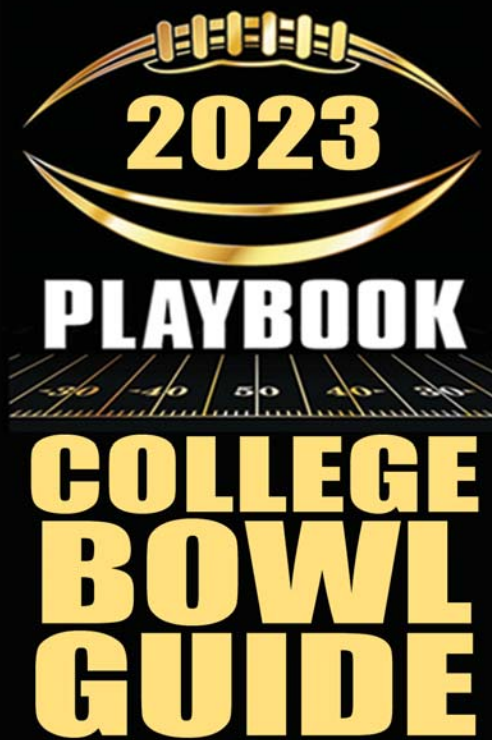
<b>Brady Kannon</b> brady.kannon@gmail	<b>STEELERS +3'</b>	17-15 / 10-6 / 27 pts	<b>Marc Lawrence</b> PlaybookSports.com	<b>Kentucky +5'</b>	21-11 / 10-6 / 31 pts
<b>Dionne D'Amico</b> dfasano10@gmail	<b>LSU -10'</b>	16-15 / 10-6* / 26 pts	<b>Marco D'Angelo</b> marco@wagertalk.com	<b>Iowa +8'</b>	15-17 / *10-6 / 26 pts
<b>Doc's Sports</b> max@docsports.com	<b>Georgia -16'</b>	18-14 / *10-6 / 29 pts	<b>Mark The Pin</b> PlaybookSports.com	<b>CHIEFS -8'</b>	19-13 / 10-6 / 26 pts
<b>Don Buster</b> busterpeabody@hotmail	<b>Michigan -2'</b>	17-15 / 9-7* / 26 pts	<b>Ralph Michaels</b> ralph@wagertalk	<b>Tennessee -8'</b>	18-13 / 8-7 / 26 pts
<b>Dr Alan</b> Caprec88@aol	<b>Texas -4'</b>	17-15 / *9-7 / 27 pts	<b>Ross Benjamin</b> RossBenjaminsports.com	<b>CARDINALS +12'</b>	20-12 / *11-5 / 32 pts
<b>E-R Picks</b> stopa12@yahoo	<b>WAS OVR 48'</b>	21-11 / 11-5* / 32 pts	<b>Scott Wetzel</b> swoppositepicks@yahoo	<b>Washington +4'</b>	19-13 / *12-4 / 32 pts
<b>Joe D'Amico</b> allamericansi@cox.net	<b>RAMS -6'</b>	18-14 / 9-7 / 27 pts	<b>Solomon Sports</b> adambers1807@yahoo	<b>ARZ UND 47'</b>	16-16 / 9-7* / 25 pts
<b>Joe Nelson</b> NellySports.com	<b>CHARGERS +5'</b>	18-14 / 11-5 / 29 pts	<b>Special K Sports</b> specialKSports@aol	<b>Washington +4'</b>	18-14 / *8-8* / 27 pts
<b>Kelly In Vegas</b> kelly@wagertalk.com	<b>Kansas St -2'</b>	19-13 / 9-7 / 28 pts	<b>TD Tony</b> tdtony@hotmail	<b>Toledo +4'</b>	19-13 / 9-7 / 28 pts
<b>Las Vegas Cris</b> cris4700@aol	<b>SAINTS +3'</b>	16-16 / *8-8 / 25 pts	<b>Victor King</b> vic@playbooksports.com	<b>RAIDERS +3'</b>	19-13 / 11-5 / 30 pts

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# KENNY WHITE'S 2023 FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS

Power Ratings courtesy of [KennyWhiteSports.com](http://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
<b>NCAA</b>														
69	Air Force	Mountain West	98.5	4.5	44	James Madison	Sun Belt	105	2.5	58	Rutgers	Big Ten	101.5	4
128	Akron	Mid-American	80.5	2	34	Kansas	Big 12	108	3.5	124	Sam Houston St	Conference USA	83	3.5
1	Alabama	Southeastern	128.5	6	14	Kansas St	Big 12	114.5	5	103	San Diego St	Mountain West	90.5	4.5
67	Appalachian St	Sun Belt	99	4	133	Kent St	Mid-American	74.5	4.5	65	San Jose St	Mountain West	99.5	3
21	Arizona	Pac-12	111.5	4.5	27	Kentucky	Southeastern	110	4	24	SMU	American Athletic	111	4
77	Arizona St	Pac-12	96	4	58	Liberty	Conference USA	101.5	4	38	South Alabama	Sun Belt	106.5	2.5
61	Arkansas	Southeastern	101	4.5	118	Louisiana Tech	Conference USA	86	3	42	South Carolina	Southeastern	105.5	5
102	Arkansas St	Sun Belt	91	3.5	21	Louisville	Atlantic Coast	111.5	4.5	118	Southern Miss	Sun Belt	86	4
90	Army	Independent	93	3.5	8	LSU	Southeastern	121.5	5.5	93	Stanford	Pac-12	92.5	4.5
24	Auburn	Southeastern	111	5	88	Marshall	Sun Belt	93.5	4	72	Syracuse	Atlantic Coast	97	4.5
103	Ball St	Mid-American	90.5	2.5	24	Maryland	Big Ten	111	4.5	27	TCU	Big 12	110	5
86	Baylor	Big 12	94	4.5	58	Memphis	American Athletic	101.5	3	115	Temple	American Athletic	87	2.5
42	Boise St	Mountain West	105.5	5	31	Miami (FL)	Atlantic Coast	109	4	12	Tennessee	Southeastern	115.5	5.5
73	Boston College	Atlantic Coast	96.5	4.5	85	Miami (OH)	Mid-American	94.5	2.5	6	Texas	Big 12	125	5
93	Bowling Green	Mid-American	92.5	2	2	Michigan	Big Ten	127.5	5	13	Texas A&M	Southeastern	115	6
120	Buffalo	Mid-American	85.5	3	93	Michigan St	Big Ten	92.5	5	81	Texas St	Sun Belt	95	3
69	BYU	Big 12	98.5	5	109	Middle Tenn	Conference USA	89.5	3	35	Texas Tech	Big 12	107	5
49	California	Pac-12	104	4	67	Minnesota	Big Ten	99	4.5	54	Toledo	Mid-American	102.5	3.5
109	C Michigan	Mid-American	89.5	2.5	15	Mississippi	Southeastern	114	4.5	46	Troy	Sun Belt	104.5	4
122	Charlotte	American Athletic	84.5	2.5	52	Mississippi St	Southeastern	103	5	49	Tulane	American Athletic	104	2.5
71	Cincinnati	American Athletic	98	5	15	Missouri	Southeastern	114	4.5	115	Tulsa	American Athletic	87	4
15	Clemson	Atlantic Coast	114	5.5	114	Navy	American Athletic	87.5	4	101	UAB	American Athletic	91.5	4
77	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt	96	3.5	35	NC State	Atlantic Coast	107	4.5	31	UCF	Big 12	109	4
93	Colorado	Pac-12	92.5	4.5	49	Nebraska	Big Ten	104	5	31	UCLA	Pac-12	109	3.5
109	Colorado St	Mountain West	89.5	4.5	132	Nevada	Mountain West	80	4.5	90	UL-Lafayette	Sun Belt	93	3.5
126	Connecticut	Independent	82.5	3	124	New Mexico	Mountain West	83	2	128	UL-Monroe	Sun Belt	80.5	2.5
56	Duke	Atlantic Coast	102	3.5	88	New Mexico St	Conference USA	93.5	2	73	UNLV	Mountain West	96.5	2
113	East Carolina	American Athletic	88	4	27	North Carolina	Atlantic Coast	110	4.5	15	USC	Pac-12	114	4
117	E Michigan	Mid-American	86.5	2	105	North Texas	American Athletic	90	3	97	USF	American Athletic	92	3
46	Florida	Southeastern	104.5	5	89	No Illinois	Mid-American	93	4	27	Utah	Pac-12	110	4.5
97	Florida Atlantic	American Athletic	92	3	73	Northwestern	Big Ten	96.5	3.5	105	Utah St	Mountain West	90	4
128	Florida Int'l	Conference USA	80.5	2.5	8	Notre Dame	Atlantic Coast	121.5	5	121	UTEP	Conference USA	84.5	3
19	Florida St	Atlantic Coast	113	5	5	Ohio State	Big Ten	125.5	6	40	UTSA	American Athletic	106	3
81	Fresno St	Mountain West	95	4.5	81	Ohio U	Mid-American	95	3.5	105	Vanderbilt	Southeastern	90	4
3	Georgia	Southeastern	127	6	11	Oklahoma	Big 12	118	5	77	Virginia	Atlantic Coast	96	4.5
97	Geo Southern	Sun Belt	92	2.5	38	Oklahoma St	Big 12	106.5	5	52	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	103	5
105	Georgia St	Sun Belt	90	2	109	Old Dominion	Sun Belt	89.5	2.5	65	Wake Forest	Atlantic Coast	99.5	4.5
56	Georgia Tech	Atlantic Coast	102	4.5	4	Oregon	Pac-12	126	5	10	Washington	Pac-12	119	4.5
127	Hawaii	Mountain West	82	5.5	20	Oregon St	Pac-12	112	5	40	Washington St	Pac-12	106	4.5
62	Houston	Big 12	100.5	4.5	7	Penn St	Big Ten	122.5	5	35	West Virginia	Big 12	107	5
54	Illinois	Big Ten	102.5	4.5	62	Pittsburgh	Atlantic Coast	100.5	4.5	97	W Kentucky	Conference USA	92	4.5
73	Indiana	Big Ten	96.5	4.5	64	Purdue	Big Ten	100	4.5	121	W Michigan	Mid-American	85	3.5
44	Iowa	Big Ten	105	5	86	Rice	American Athletic	94	2.5	46	Wisconsin	Big Ten	104.5	5.5
21	Iowa St	Big 12	111.5	5						80	Wyoming	Mountain West	95.5	4.5
81	Jacksonville St	Conference USA	95	4.5										

**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
<b>NFL</b>														
27	Arizona Cardinals	NFC West	95	2.5	19	Houston Texans	AFC South	97.5	2.5	14	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	98.5	3
16	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	98	2.5	29	Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	94.5	3	29	New England Pats	AFC East	94.5	3
5	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	107	3	9	Jacksonville Jaguars	AFC South	102	2.5	13	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	99	3
2	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	109	3.5	3	Kansas City Chiefs	AFC West	108	3.5	32	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	90	3
31	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	91.5	2.5	19	Las Vegas Raiders	AFC West	97.5	2.5	23	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	96.5	2
25	Chicago Bears	NFC North	96	2.5	26	L.A. Chargers	AFC West	95.5	2	6	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	105.5	3
16	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	98	3	10	L.A. Rams	NFC West	100.5	2.5	23	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	96.5	3
14	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	98.5	2.5	6	Miami Dolphins	AFC East	105.5	2.5	1	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	112	3
4	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	107.5	3						11	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	100	3.5
12	Denver Broncos	AFC West	99.5	3						19	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	97.5	2.5
8	Detroit Lions	NFC North	104	3						16	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	98	2.5
22	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	97	3						27	Wash Commanders	NFC East	95	2.5


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# 2023-24 COLLEGE BOWLS • DECEMBER 16 - JANUARY 8

		OL	CL	OL: OPENING LINE				OL	CL	CL: CLOSING LINE				OL	CL				
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16</b>				<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 (continued)</b>				<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29</b>											
<b>NEW ORLEANS BOWL</b>				<b>68 VENTURES BOWL</b>				<b>GATOR BOWL</b>											
203	JACKSONVILLE ST 2:15 PM (New Orleans, LA)	3'	3'					229	SOUTH ALABAMA 7:00 PM (Mobile, AL)	15	17'			257	CLEMSON ESPN 12:00 PM (Jacksonville, FL)	7			
204	LOUISIANA ESPN							230	E MICHIGAN ESPN					258	KENTUCKY 3★				
<b>CURE BOWL</b>				<b>LAS VEGAS BOWL</b>				<b>SUN BOWL</b>											
205	MIAMI OHIO 4★ 3:30 PM (Orlando, FL)							231	UTAH ABC 7:30 PM (Las Vegas, NV)	7	7			259	NOTRE DAME 2:00 PM (El Paso, TX)	10'			
206	APP STATE ABC	4	6'					232	NORTHWESTERN					260	OREGON ST CBS				
<b>NEW MEXICO BOWL</b>				<b>HAWAII BOWL</b>				<b>LIBERTY BOWL</b>											
207	NEW MEXICO ST 5:45 PM (Albuquerque, NM)	1'	3'					233	COASTAL CARO 10:30 PM (Honolulu, HI)					261	MEMPHIS 3:30 PM (Memphis, TN)				
208	FRESNO ST ESPN							234	SAN JOSE ST ESPN	7'	8			262	IOWA ST ESPN	7			
<b>LA BOWL Hosted by Gronk</b>				<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26</b>				<b>COTTON BOWL</b>											
209	UCLA 7:30 PM (Inglewood, CA)		6'					<b>QUICK LANE BOWL</b>				263	MISSOURI 8:00 PM (Arlington, TX)						
210	BOISE ST ABC	Pk						235	BOWLING GREEN 2:00 PM (Detroit, MI)					264	OHIO ST ESPN	2'			
<b>INDEPENDENCE BOWL</b>				<b>FIRST RESPONDER BOWL</b>				<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30</b>											
211	CALIFORNIA 9:15 PM (Shreveport, LA)							236	MINNESOTA ESPN	6	1'			<b>PEACH BOWL</b>					
212	TEXAS TECH ESPN	3	3'					237	TEXAS ST 5:30 PM (Dallas, TX)	4'	3'			265	OLE MISS 12:00 PM (Atlanta, Ga)				
<b>MYRTLE BEACH BOWL</b>				<b>GUARANTEED RATE BOWL</b>				<b>MUSIC CITY BOWL</b>											
213	GA SOUTHERN 11:00 AM (Conway, SC)		1'					238	RICE ESPN					266	PENN ST ESPN	4			
214	OHIO ESPN	2'						239	KANSAS 9:00 PM (Phoenix, AZ)	11	8			267	AUBURN 2:00 PM (Nashville, TN)	2'			
<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 18</b>				<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27</b>				<b>ORANGE BOWL</b>											
<b>FAMOUS TOASTERY BOWL</b>				<b>MILITARY BOWL</b>				<b>ARIZONA BOWL</b>											
201	W KENTUCKY 2:30 PM (Charlotte, NC)							241	VIRGINIA TECH 2:00 PM (Annapolis, MD)	6				269	GEORGIA 4:00 PM (Miami, FL)	14			
202	OLD DOM ESPN	2'	4'					242	TULANE ESPN					270	FLORIDA ST ESPN				
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19</b>				<b>DUKE'S MAYO BOWL</b>				<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 1</b>											
<b>FRISCO BOWL</b>				<b>HOLIDAY BOWL</b>				<b>RELIAQUEST BOWL</b>											
215	TEX-SAN ANTONIO 9:00 PM (Frisco, TX)	9'	7					245	LOUISVILLE 8:00 PM (San Diego, CA)	7'				273	WISCONSIN 12:00 PM (Tampa, FL)				
216	MARSHALL ESPN							246	USC FOX					274	LSU ESPN2	10			
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21</b>				<b>TEXAS BOWL</b>				<b>CITRUS BOWL</b>											
<b>BOCA RATON BOWL</b>				<b>TEXAS A&amp;M ESPN</b>				<b>FIESTA BOWL</b>											
217	SYRACUSE 8:00 PM (Boca Raton, FL)	3'	3					247	HOUSTON TX 9:00 PM (Houston, TX)	3'				275	IOWA 1:00 PM (Orlando, FL)				
218	S FLORIDA ESPN							248	OKLAHOMA ST					276	TENNESSEE ABC	7'			
<b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22</b>				<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28</b>				<b>LIBERTY 5★</b>											
<b>GASPARILLA BOWL</b>				<b>FENWAY BOWL</b>				<b>OREGON ESPN</b>											
219	C FLORIDA 6:30 PM (Tampa, FL)	4'	6					249	SMU ESPN 11:00 AM (Boston, MA)	10'				277	1:00 PM (Glendale, AZ)				
220	GA TECH ESPN							250	BOSTON COLL ★					278	OREGON ESPN	17			
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23</b>				<b>COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS</b>															
<b>BIRMINGHAM BOWL</b>				<b>PINSTRIPES BOWL</b>				<b>ROSE BOWL</b>											
221	DUKE 12:00 PM (Birmingham, AL)							251	RUTGERS 2:15 PM (Bronx, NY)					279	ALABAMA 5:00 PM (Pasadena, CA)				
222	TROY ABC	6'	6'					252	MIAMI FL ESPN	3'				280	MICHIGAN ESPN	2			
<b>CAMELLIA BOWL</b>				<b>POP-TARTS BOWL</b>				<b>SUGAR BOWL</b>											
223	ARKANSAS ST 12:00 PM (Montgomery, AL)		2'					253	NC STATE 5:45 PM (Orlando, FL)					281	TEXAS ESPN 8:45 PM (New Orleans, LA)	4			
224	NO ILLINOIS ESPN	Pk						254	KANSAS ST ESPN	4'				282	WASHINGTON				
<b>ARMED FORCES BOWL</b>				<b>ALAMO BOWL</b>				<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 8</b>											
225	JAMES MADISON 3:30 PM (Fort Worth, TX)	3						255	ARIZONA 9:15 PM (San Antonio, TX)	3'				<b>NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME</b>					
226	AIR FORCE ABC		2'					256	OKLAHOMA ESPN					287	7:30 PM (Houston, TX)				
<b>POTATO BOWL</b>																			
227	GEORGIA ST 3:30 PM (Boise, ID)	2'											288	ESPN					
228	UTAH ST ESPN		2'																

# THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS

A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT  
STAR-RATED BEST BET SELECTIONS

<b>FOR WEEK ENDING MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023</b>		<b>3★ BEST BET</b>	<b>4★ BEST BET</b>	<b>5★ BEST BET</b>
	<b>NFL</b>	<b>SAINTS</b>	<b>DOLPHINS</b>	<b>COWBOYS</b>
	<b>UPSET GAME</b>	<b>RAIDERS</b>	<b>SUBSCRIBE TO PLAYBOOK TODAY: 800.752.9266</b>	
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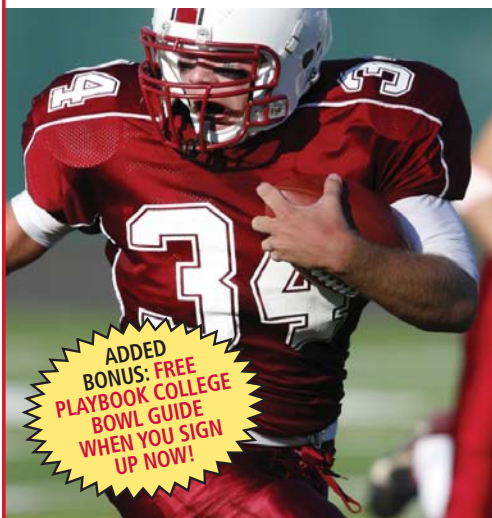
## 2023 PRO FOOTBALL - DECEMBER 31

Listed next to the games below are two entries: **OL** is the opening line on the contest and **PB** is the **PLAYBOOK** margin. You have a **PLAYBOOK** Recommendation whenever our predicted margin of victory is 6 or more points off the opening line. Remember, opening lines are subject to change during the week so always check **YOUR CURRENT LINE** against the **PLAYBOOK** line to determine a final play.

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	
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28</b>				109	ATLANTA 1:00 PM CHICAGO		3	<b>Don't Miss Marc's 10-Star College Bowl Game of the Year and his 5-Star College Bowl Game of the Month. Get BOTH for only \$159! See page 4 for details.</b>				
				110	CBS	3						
101	NY JETS 8:15 PM			111	TENNESSEE 1:00 PM			123	SAN FRANCISCO 1:00 PM	13'	10	
102	CLEVELAND PRIME	7	10	112	HOUSTON	FOX	3'	8	124	WASHINGTON	FOX	
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30</b>				113	LAS VEGAS ★ 1:00 PM		6	125	PITTSBURGH 4:05 PM		3	
103	DETROIT 8:15 PM	ABC		114	INDIANAPOLIS	CBS	3	126	SEATTLE	FOX	4	
104	DALLAS ★	ESPN	6	115	CAROLINA 1:00 PM			127	CINCINNATI 4:25 PM			
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31</b>				116	JACKSONVILLE	CBS	6	1	128	KANSAS CITY	CBS	8
105	MIAMI ★ 1:00 PM		8	117	LA RAMS 1:00 PM		6'	1	129	LA CHARGERS 4:25 PM		
106	BALTIMORE	CBS	3	118	NY GIANTS	FOX			130	DENVER	CBS	6
107	NEW ENGLAND 1:00 PM			119	ARIZONA 1:00 PM				131	GREEN BAY 8:20		3
108	BUFFALO	CBS	12	120	PHILADELPHIA	FOX	12'	8	132	MINNESOTA	NBC	2'
				121	NEW ORLEANS ★ 1:00 PM			10	<b>HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MARC LAWRENCE AND THE ENTIRE PLAYBOOK STAFF!</b>			
				122	TAMPA BAY	FOX	3					

**INCLUDES MARC'S 10-STAR COLLEGE BOWL GAME OF THE YEAR AND HIS 5-STAR COLLEGE BOWL TOP PLAY!**



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- 2022 10-Star Bowl Game Of The Year: Ohio State (+6) 41, Georgia 42 – WINNER!
- 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!