



Volume 39, Issue 20

January 4-5, 2025

Marc's Season-Ending Super Bowl Special Is Here

5-Star NFL Best Bets On Red-Hot 4-0 Run!

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***
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RING OF FIRE

A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping

*I fell into a burnin' ring of fire
I went down, down, down
And the flames went higher
And it burns, burns, burns
The ring of fire, the ring of fire.*

When legendary – and my favorite – Hall of Fame country singer Johnny Cash and June Carter were singing partners and close friends, Carter wrote the aforementioned lyrics about their relationship, saying that being around Cash was like being in a “ring of fire.” Cash was involved in drugs and had a very volatile lifestyle. Despite it all, Carter wrote the song while driving around aimlessly one night, worried about his ways but also resigned to the fact that she couldn’t resist him. “There is no way to be in that kind of hell, no way to extinguish a flame that burns, burns, burns,” she said. Nonetheless, they married, and she helped him get and stay sober in their 35 years of marriage.

Ask any NFL player what burns them the most and they will likely tell you that it occurs when they take it

on the chops three straight games against a division opponent. It’s not only demoralizing, but it also borders on embarrassment.

It also serves as a point of motivation for the better teams in the league, so much so that if you had the insight to –

PLAY ON any NFL .500 or greater division road dog or favorite of 3 or less points with triple revenge-exact if they are coming off consecutive wins

— you would have owned a sparkling 27-13-1 ATS mark since 1981 if you had done so. Better yet, bring them in off a pair of SUATS wins and the improve including **18-5 ATS**.

And if they are facing a stumbling foe coming off a double-digit SU loss they ratchet up to **10-0 ATS** in this role.

This week, the **Cincinnati Bengals** will join the ‘Ring of Fire’ when they invade Pittsburgh to take on the stumbling Steelers, a team that has an AFC playoff seed locked up.

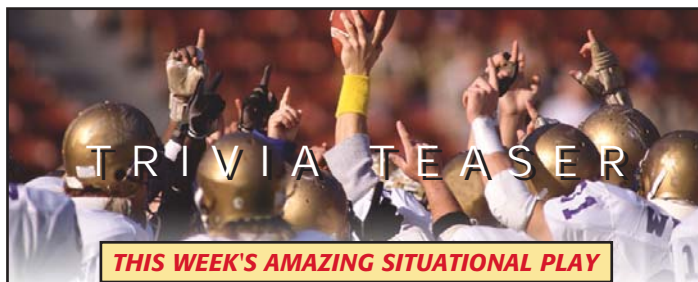
So, if you have a burning desire to cash one last ticket this week, I strongly suggest you heed the sage advice of June Carter and The Man In Black, Johnny Cash, who together put it best when they said...

*Love is a burnin' thing
And it makes a fiery ring
Bound by wild desire
I fell into a ring of fire.*

Now is the best time of the season to make your best move and join me for my NFL Playoff Super Bowl Spectacular. You get every NFL playoff release I make throughout the NFL playoffs – including my **5-Star NFL Playoff Game of the Year** – for only \$199 thru the Super Bowl. PLUS – as an added bonus, you’ll also get my once-a-year 10-Star NFL Game of the Year going this weekend with a **no-charge bonus!** We’re documented at 6-1 on NFL Playoff Top Plays the plays three seasons. Click here to join now or call **1.800.321.7777** for fast, friendly customer service – you’ll be glad you did!

Marc Lawrence

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TRIVIA TEASER

THIS WEEK'S AMAZING SITUATIONAL PLAY

This coach shines with his current team in regular season finales at **9-2 SU and 8-3 ATS** in their final game of the season before going to the playoffs, including **3-0 ATS away**. Who is this week’s live road dog?
For the Trivia Teaser answer, turn to page 5.

AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK

PLAY AGAINST any .500 or greater NFL team in its final game of the season if they are coming off three consecutive revenge wins.

**Play AGAINST:
LOS ANGELES RAMS (1/5)**

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and more at the PlaybookSports.com website!**

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**ATS W-L
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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 18 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.

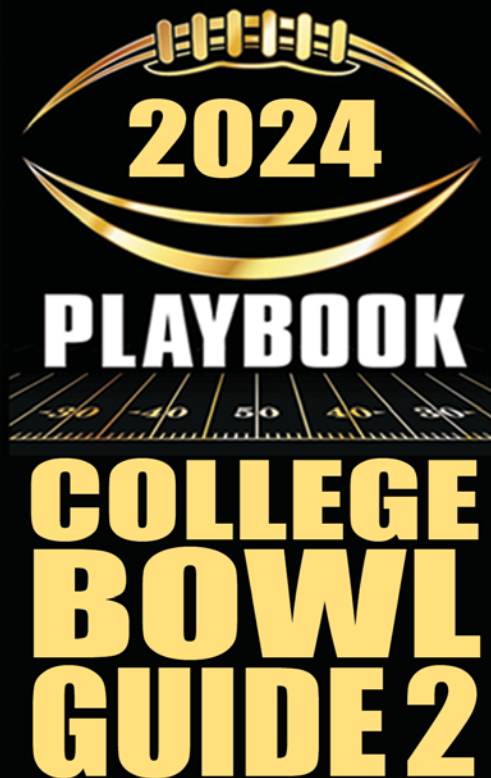
TEAMS	KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS
Saturday, January 4	
Cleveland BALTIMORE	SERIES: 4-1 L5... 1-6 L7 div road games... 2-5 vs dbl div rev 0-5 off SU win 28 > pts... 0-4 aft Weekday gm TY
Cincinnati PITTSBURGH	4-0 aft Denv... 11-2-1 aft score 30+ pts... 0-3 aft Sat gm SERIES: 4-1 L5... 6-0 L6 div home games... 4-0 aft KC
Sunday, January 5	
New Orleans TAMPA BAY	SERIES: Visitor 6-0... 6-0 as div RD's... 7-1 w/ sing div rev 4-0 aft div home game... 3-0 aft Caro... 0-4 vs sing div rev
Buffalo NEW ENGLAND	3-0-1 away aft div HG... 2-0 Game 17... 4-2 L6 div RG SERIES: 3-0 L3... 4-1 aft LAC... 1-9-1 L11 vs .750 > opp
Chicago GREEN BAY	1-4 aft score 3 < pts... 2-5 aft Seat... 3-6 away w/ div rev SERIES: 9-1 L10... 8-0 aft div RG... 6-1 home vs .333 < opp
Miami NY JETS	SERIES: 10-3 L13... 6-1 L7 div road games... 3-1 aft Clev 6-3 aft div RG... 0-4 aft Buff... 1-3 L4 div home game
Kansas City DENVER	4-1 aft allow 19 > pts... 7-3 vs sing div rev... 4-2 aft Pitt SERIES: 5-1 L6... 7-3 w/ sing div rev... 0-4 aft Sat game

TEAMS	KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS
La Chargers LAS VEGAS	8-1 L9 vs .250 < opp... 3-1 aft Pats... 1-6 aft score 35 > pts SERIES: Host 7-0... 7-3 L10 div home games... 0-4 aft Saints
Jacksonville INDIANAPOLIS	SERIES: 8-2 L10... 6-1 L7 div road games... 5-1 aft div HG 5-1 as home favs L2Y... 7-2 L9 vs .333 < opp... 0-3 Game 17
Carolina ATLANTA	5-1 w/ sing div rev... 3-1 aft TBay... 1-4 as div RD's 4 > pts SERIES: Host 3-1... 7-2 as div HF's 3 > pts... 3-6 aft Wash
Washington DALLAS	8-1 L9 w/ trip rev... 8-2 L10 vs < .500 opp... 0-3 aft Atl SERIES: 6-1 L7... 7-1 aft div road game... 10-2 L12 div HG
Seattle LA RAMS	5-1 aft Chic... 0-4 w/ trip revenge... 0-3 aft score 7 < pts SERIES: 6-1 L7... 6-1 aft score 14 < pts... 10-3 aft Ariz
San Francisco ARIZONA	SERIES: 4-1 L5... 4-1-1 aft Monday HG... 1-3 L4 w sing rev 4-0 aft Saturday RG... 6-1 aft score 10 < pts... 1-3 aft Rams
Houston TENNESSEE	SERIES: 6-2 L8... 8-1-1 L10 div road games... 0-6 aft Bal 1-6 L7 div home games... 2-7 home vs opp off loss 21 > pts
Minnesota DETROIT	3-1 aft GBay... 5-2 L7 vs .750 > opp... 1-6-1 aft div HG SERIES: 8-0 L8... 9-0-1 home off BB RG... 2-7 aft SF
Ny Giants PHILADELPHIA	5-1 as div RD's 4 > pts... 3-1 L4 w/ sing rev... 1-3 aft Ind 0-3 Game 17... 1-11 as favs 6 > pts... 1-3 in 2nd of BB HG

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PRO FOOTBALL

Saturday, January 4

BALTIMORE over Cleveland by 13

Leave it up to the NFL. Gushing with cash flow beyond their wildest dreams, they couldn't let a Saturday go by unabated. Instead, the league wielded its "flex" power and moved the pair of AFC North contests into primetime games. You can almost feel the ink from Benjamins pouring out onto these pages. Forget that they are actually "flexing" a 3-13 squad cut from the same cloth as the Giants, the Patriots, and the Titans, into a game that only Browns and Ravens fans could give a sh*t about. Nevertheless, because there is a line on this game and it's the only contest in town for the moment, a cursory look at the History Book reminds us that Cleveland is 2-9 ATS when coming off a loss and taking on a foe coming off a win. In addition, the Brownnosers are **1-6 ATS** their last seven division roadies. NFL road teams that scored seven or fewer points in each of their last three games are 8-2-1 ATS. Unfortunately, the Ravens bring slim pickings of their own into this scrimmage with a **0-5 ATS** ledger after scoring 28-plus points and **1-7 ATS** after surrendering fewer than seven points in their last outing. Put a gun to our head, and we'll likely dabble with the dog in this contest. Just don't pull the trigger.

3★ BEST BET

Cincinnati over PITTSBURGH by 11

The Steelers are currently the No. 5 seed in the AFC Playoff Picture and have clinched a playoff spot. They can claim the No. 3 seed (along with the AFC North title) with a win or tie here – and a Steelers loss. Hence, the Burghers cannot win the division on their own. They would need a Ravens' loss to the Browns in the earlier game (yeah, sure). The truth is they are not playing their best ball at the moment, going **0-4 In The Stats** in their last four games, while Russell Wilson is looking the retread he was when the Seattle Seahawks cut him loose. Meanwhile, the Bengals have been scratching and clawing to stay alive in the AFC playoff chase, and they are not about to fold their hand today. Not with Cincinnati clinging precariously onto playoff eligibility and QB Joe Burrow bringing a 29-12 ATS career road mark into this scrape. Like a Christmas gift that was overlooked, the Bengals remind us they are also **7-1 ATS** away when coming off an ATS win versus foes coming off an ATS loss. We wrap it all up with **THE CLINCHER: Cincinnati is the team featured in a perfect winning role in Marc's BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW article on page 2.**

Sunday, January 5

TAMPA BAY over New Orleans by 10

The Bucs are closing like a runaway freight train without air brakes, and today, they can clinch the NFC South for the fourth straight year with a win or tie against the Saints - or the Falcons win or tie. For that, they can thank the lucky stars of Baker Mayfield, who migrated from Cleveland to Tampa. Before snapping the rubber band, remember that Mayfield's Achilles tendon is a home favorite (10-19-1 ATS), including 2-9 ATS against conference foes. In addition, the host team in this series is currently on a **1-8 ATS** downer. Because the Bucs still have work to do, the oddsmaker has packed this line accordingly. Be careful here, especially with the Saints on a **3-0 SUATS** win skein in season-ending travelers.

INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

Since 2000, the Jacksonville Jaguars have gone 1-18 SU and 6-13 ATS away in their final games of the season.

Buffalo over NEW ENGLAND by 3

The Buffalo Bills already have the AFC East and No. 2 seed locked up going into this Week 18 finale against the New England Patriots. Nonetheless, head coach Sean McDermott confirmed Josh Allen will start today – though it will be for a "very, very short-lived amount of time." McDermott said, "In Josh's case, one of the things that we know is very important to him is his consecutive start streak, if you will, and it's important to him for a great reason." Allen has started 110 consecutive regular-season games for the Bills. McDermott added that Sunday's game will feature a "blend" of players who usually play and others who they want to take a closer look at. The Patriots, meanwhile, will miss the playoffs for a third straight season. After the New York Giant's win on Sunday, New England moved into the top spot for the 2025 NFL Draft. If the Patriots lose today, they'll keep their place in the order and have the No. 1 pick come April. So while the Pats are **2-10 ATS** when coming off a loss against an opponent coming off a win, and **1-9-1 ATS** of late versus .750 or greater opponents, the Bills are just 1-4 ATS against a third division foe in a row and 3-9 outright away in season-ending finales. Sorry, but you're on your own here.

GREEN BAY over Chicago by 14

We had the Packers overrated and, lo and behold, they came up short last week against the super-hot Vikings. Perhaps it wasn't all that surprising considering their wins this season have come largely against super flyweights as four of the five Green Bay beatdowns have come against foes with an .857 or greater win percentage (11-1 versus less). At 4-12 this season, the Bears certainly check the "less" box. The Packers have been known to beat the Bears like red-headed step children, though, going 26-3 SU and 22-7 ATS overall since 2011, including **11-0 SU and 10-1 ATS** when the Pack is coming off a loss. The Cheeseheads will be either the No. 6 seed or No. 7 seed in the NFC playoffs, with all 16 scenarios where the Packers get the No. 6 seed require the Dallas Cowboys to beat the Washington Commanders and the Packers to beat the Chicago Bears on Sunday. And if the Commanders and Packers both win, the Commanders will be the No. 6 seed based on tiebreaker.

4★ BEST BET

Miami over NY JETS by 14

It comes down to two things for the Fish – they need a win over the Jets and a Broncos loss to the Chiefs. Should those two occurrences happen, it will have been a long and winding road for Miami, a team that started the season 2-6 before going 6-2 to reach this decisive crossroad. Most of Miami's early lack of success is attributable to the loss of QB Tua Tagovailoa in the early portion of the campaign. The Tongan has pled well in division duke-outs with a 13-8 SU and 12-8-1 ATS career mark, including 11-2 SU and 9-4 ATS versus losing division foes. He missed the team's victory at Cleveland because of a hip injury, and he is questionable this week. This means Tyler "Snoop" Huntley may be making a fifth start for the Dolphins in 2024. The Jets can't seem to get off the runaway in this series, just 2-11 SU and 3-10 ATS since 2018. They are also just 2-10 ATS when coming off double-digit SUATS losses and 2-11 ATS in their last thirteen puppy roles. With the Mahi Mahi's **11-2 ATS** as a favorite coming off a favorite role in their previous game, it's time we say goodbye, Mr. Rodgers. We saved the best for last, though, with **THE CLINCHER: Miami QB Tyler Huntley is 4-1 SUATS in his NFL career against foes coming off consecutive losses, including 3-0 SUATS away.**

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UPSET GAME OF THE WEEK UPSET

Kansas City over DENVER by 3

Based on the history of Andy Reid, Kansas City will sit Patrick Mahomes, Chris Jones, and other key starters, giving them 24 days of rest (!) before their first playoff game. Backup Carson Wentz will make his first start for Kansas City today. He is 9-5 SUATS in his NFL career, starting behind .800 or great teams, including 3-1 SUATS as a dog. The Chiefs have nothing to play for today other than pride and momentum as they ride a six-game win skein on their quest to become the first NFL team to capture three successive Super Bowls. On the other hand, the Broncos need a win today to guarantee a playoff spot. But don't expect KC to roll over: Andy Reid rested his starting quarterback in the final weekends of 2013, 2017, 2020, and 2023, winning two of those games and taking the playoff-bound 2013 Chargers to overtime. In addition, Andy Reid is also the answer to this week's stunning **TRIVIA TEASER** on page 2. And for what it's worth, this is the highest line Denver has had to hurdle in this series since 2014, when they laid 13-points at home in a game they won but failed to cover. KC has been the favorite in the last 13 games in this series, making them a fully qualified DIA DIA play (Dominating Dogs In Action Doing It Again). With that, we turn it over to **THE CLINCHER: Kansas City is 14-4 outright and 16-2 ATS as a road dog since 2016, including 4-0 SUATS in division games.**

LA Chargers over LAS VEGAS by 8

The Chargers punched their ticket to the playoffs after defeating the Patriots on Saturday. Now, the question remains: Which seed will Los Angeles get? There are two options: The Bolts can secure the No. 5 seed with a win over the Raiders next weekend, and the Steelers lose to the Bengals. If Pittsburgh wins, L.A. can't get the fifth seed because the Steelers own the head-to-head tiebreaker. If the Chargers were to get the fifth seed, they would play the fourth-seed Texans, who won the AFC South, on the road in the Wild Card Round. So, yes, the Bolts have something to play for today. The good news is they are **8-1 ATS** vs .250 or fewer foes. They are also **9-2 ATS** as favorites of late. Expect the Raiders, in a heated battle for the worst record in the loop, to acquiesce as they bring a 1-4 ATS home log against winning opponents. We'll be charging up today.

INDIANAPOLIS over Jacksonville by 10

The Colts proved to be the fraud they always were when losses in six of their final nine games booted them from the playoffs. This is what happens to teams that are 5-11 ITS (In The Stats) while losing the stats by an average of -35 net yards per game. Will they become focused today to win their 8th game or more in four of the previous five seasons? Indy is 10-2 ATS with triple revenge-exact and **5-1 ATS** as home chalk the past two seasons. Conversely, the Jags are just **1-5 ATS** away against triple revengers. Look for the 'Ville to go through the motions today.

ATLANTA over Carolina by 12

Sadly, 14 teams in the NFL have no chance of finishing with a .500 record this year, and that number could increase to 17 teams! That's because three teams were sitting at 8-8 entering the final week, and Atlanta is one of the three. Yes, the Falcons did a dirty deed in dropping five of their last seven games to fall out of the playoffs. But there is a new feeling moving forward behind rookie QB Michael Penix Jr. Atlanta is **7-2 ATS** as home favorites of three or more points, while the hapless Panthers are 2-5 ATS away off an away game. Lay it if you play it.

DALLAS over Washington by 1

Yes, the Commanders have needs here today. However, if Washington wins or the Packers lose to the Bears at Lambeau Field, the Packers will fall to the No. 7 seed. Even if the Commanders and Packers both win, then Washington will be the No. 6 seed based on tiebreaker (conference record). The Commanders are **8-1 ATS** with triple revenge-exact and 8-2 ATS in their last ten games versus losing foes; on the flip side, the Boys are **0-6 ATS** versus triple revenge-exact. You know what to do.

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5★ BEST BET

Seattle over L.A. RAMS by 13

The Rams began the year 1-4 but clinched the NFC West thanks to Washington's win, which eliminated Seattle (9-7) due to a tiebreaker. To maintain the No. 3 seed, L.A. needs to win this game or for the Bucs to lose to New Orleans. But the pickle in the middle, Seattle, attracts our attention. Yes, the Seahawks have been eliminated from the postseason. But with the Rams having climbed the mountain and now breathing playoff air, and currently 5-10 SU and 4-11 ATS at home against triple-revenging foes, we're riding the Seahawks as they zero in on a 10-win season, which is what Los Angeles will have if they fall to Seattle today. With that, we're all over the mad-as-hell triple-avenging division visitor with the better offense and defense. And we'll even toss in an extra additive with **THE CLINCHER: See Marc's AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK on page 2.**

San Francisco over ARIZONA by 3

If Brock Purdy sits this one out with a nerve injury in his elbow that he said felt like his arm was "on fire," the start will be made by well-traveled Joshua Dobbs. The Niners are 4-1-1 ATS following a Monday Night home game and 7-2 ATS in their last nine division roadies. 'Zona enters at 3-9 ATS in its previous dozen division home games. With the 49ers bringing a **12-4 outright and 10-5-1 ATS** ledger in regular season finales, look for Kyle Shanahan to avoid his worst season since taking over the program in 2018.

Houston over TENNESSEE by 5

Like the Chiefs and Bills, the Texans are locked into their respective seeds regardless of today's outcome. As a result, all three teams could sit players. However, the feeling here is that Houston will be looking to re-establish a winning vibe as they enter the postseason as the No. 4 overall seed. They are also **8-1-1 ATS** in their last ten division road games. On the opposite side of the field, the Titans are riding a **2-13 ATS** current overall, losing skein and, worse, a mind-blowing **2-16 ATS** the last eighteen games on Sunday Revenge from a five-point home loss as 8-point chalk against Tennessee earlier this season cements it.

Minnesota over DETROIT by 1

Let us introduce you to Minnesota's godsend quarterback, Rodney Dangerfield, err, Sam Darnold. Darnold is 14-2 with the Vikings. To put that into better perspective, he won 13 games in his first three seasons with the Jets. Darnold owns a higher QB Rating and has

(continued on next page)

NFL PLAYOFF SCENARIOS FOR WEEK 18

AFC – CLINCHED

Kansas City Chiefs (15-1)

AFC West division title, No. 1 seed, lone first-round bye and homefield advantage

Buffalo Bills (10-6)

AFC East division title, No. 2 seed

Houston Texans (9-7)

AFC South division title

Pittsburgh Steelers (10-6) – playoff berth

Baltimore Ravens (11-5) – playoff berth

L.A. Chargers (10-6) – playoff berth

UP FOR GRABS

- Cleveland Browns (3-13) at Baltimore Ravens (11-5)
Saturday, 4:30 pm ET, ESPN / ABC TV

Baltimore clinches AFC North Division title with:

- 1) Ravens win or tie OR
- 2) Steelers loss or tie vs. Bengals

- Cincinnati (8-8) at Pittsburgh Steelers (10-6)
Saturday, 8:00 pm ET, ESPN / ABC TV

Pittsburgh clinches AFC North Division title with:

- 1) Steelers win + Ravens loss

Cincinnati clinches playoff berth with:

- 1) Bengals win + Denver loss + Miami loss or tie

- KC Chiefs (15-1) at Denver Broncos (9-7)
Sunday, 4:25 pm ET, CBS TV

Denver clinches playoff berth with:

- 1) Broncos win or tie OR
- 2) Bengals loss or tie + Dolphins loss or tie

- Miami Dolphins (8-8) vs. New York Jets (4-12)
Sunday, 4:25 pm ET, FOX TV

Miami clinches AFC East Division title with:

- 1) Dolphins win + Broncos loss

NFC – CLINCHED

Minnesota Vikings (14-2)

vs. Detroit Lions (14-2)

Winner clinches NFC North division title, No. 1 seed, lone first-round bye and homefield advantage

- Sunday, 8:20 pm ET, NBC TV

Philadelphia Eagles (13-3)

NFC East division title, No. 2 seed

Los Angeles Rams (10-6)

NFC West division title

Green Bay Packers (11-5) – playoff berth

Wash. Commanders (11-5) – playoff berth

UP FOR GRABS

- Carolina (4-12) at Atlanta Falcons (8-8)
Sunday, 1:00 pm ET, CBS TV

Atlanta clinches NFC South Division title with:

- 1) Falcons win + Buccaneers loss

- New Orleans (5-11) at Tampa Bay Bucs (9-7)
Sunday, 1:00 pm ET, CBS TV

Tampa clinches NFC South Division title with:

- 1) Bucs win or tie OR
- 2) Falcons loss or tie

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PROJECTED NFL PLAYOFF BRACKETS

AFC

(7) Denver Broncos at (2) Buffalo Bills

(6) Los Angeles Chargers at (3) Baltimore Ravens

(5) Pittsburgh Steelers at (4) Houston Texans

Wild-card round bye: (1) Kansas City Chiefs

NFC

(7) Green Bay Packers at (2) Philadelphia Eagles

(6) Washington Commanders at (3) L.A. Rams

(5) Minnesota Vikings at (4) Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Wild-card round bye: (1) Detroit Lions

thrown for more yards and TD passes than Josh Allen this season, a higher touchdown percentage than Joe Burrow, and a higher completion percentage than Lamar Jackson and Patrick Mahomes. The downside to Darnold this week is his wobbly 10-15 SU and 9-15-1 ATS career mark in division games, including 1-4 SUATS versus .750 or greater opponents. So, how important is this game for both teams, you ask? The winner of this contest will be the No. 1 seed. The loser will be the No. 5 seed. Consider this: Since the NFL implemented the playoff seeding system in 1975, the No. 1 seed has made it to the Super Bowl 26 times, with the NFC No. 1 seeds winning 16 of those and the AFC No. 1 seeds winning 10 times. The No. 5 seed has made it to the Super Bowl three times. We know the Lions are **8-0 ATS** in this series and **9-0-1 ATS** at home off back-to-back road games. Detroit is also a jaw-dropping **14-2 ATS** against .700 or greater opposition. Conversely, the Vikes are just 1-6-1 ATS after hosting a division foe and 2-9 ATS when seeking quadruple revenge-exact. Those are some intimidating numbers, but remember, Lions' QB Jared Goff is only 23-19 SU and 20-23-1 ATS when his team comes off back-to-back wins, including 1-4 SU and 0-5 ATS at home against division folk. We could go on and on and on about the numbers both teams bring into this game, including the first time in NFL history that two 14-win teams have faced off in the regular season. But the bottom line is the No. 1 seed is there for the taking for both teams, and with the Lions returning home off its Monday Night NFC Playoff Championship-loss revenge win over Frisco Monday night, this appears to be an opportune time for the avenging Vikes to steal the division. Yikes!

PHILADELPHIA over NY Giants by 6

At first glance, it could be that Nick Sirianni is in a pickle. His place in the good graces of Philadelphia Eagles fans is ever tenuous. He can either play Saquon Barkley in a meaningless season finale against the division-rival New York Giants and help him make a run at Eric Dickerson's all-time single-season rushing record while risking injury to a weapon that is central to their scheme – Barkley needs 101 yards to break it – or he can sit Barkley and position himself as the no-fun police in front of a veteran locker room that seems, to put it

generously, difficult to please and quick to turn. One could argue that having Barkley become the NFL's all-time single-season rushing leader at home would be more valuable for the franchise and entertaining for its fan base than sitting him to preserve the integrity of a Super Bowl run. However, if Barkley is going to break the record, this is his shot. And if he does, he becomes another Barkley that Philly fans will wrap their arms around – Chuck and Saquon. Meanwhile, the Giants blew it when they beat the Colts last week, relinquishing the No. 1 pick in this year's draft. So, what do the Giants have to play for today if not pride? The fact is that the Eagles will be resting plenty of starters. We only know that the G-Men are **2-12 ATS** in games when both teams are coming off of SUATS wins. But until Barkley's status is clear, we can't be.

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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 18 Playbook O/U TREND play: Jaguars @ Colts 'OVER' the TOTAL'**

2024 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK EIGHTEEN

GAME MATCHUPS	KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
Cleveland (Open: 42.5) BALTIMORE	6-3 OU vs .666 > opp... 4-2 OU L6 div RG... but 0-4 OU as DD dogs... 1-3 OU L4 away vs Bal... 3-6 OU aft Mia 7-1 OU aft allow 7 < pts... 4-1 OU L5 div HG... 4-1 OU off SU win 28 > pts... but 1-6 OU Saturdays... 3-7 OU aft Weekday gm
Cincinnati (47.5) PITTSBURGH	8-0 OU L8 vs > .600 opp... 3-0 OU on Saturdays... 3-1 OU L4 vs Pit (55.0)... 3-1 OU L4 div RG... but 2-6 OU aft Den 4-0 OU aft Weekday gm... 5-1 OU in 2nd of BB HG... 3-1 OU Saturdays... but 2-6 OU aft KC... 3-7 OU aft score 10 < pts
New Orleans (44) TAMPA BAY	0-6 OU as dogs 7 > pts... 1-5 OU aft non-conf HG... 1-5 OU L6 vs TB (36.8)... 2-9 OU aft score 10 < pts... 2-5 OU L7 div RG 8-1 OU aft score 40+ pts... 6-1 OU vs sing div revenge... but 3-11 OU as favs 7 > pts... 2-5 OU in 2nd of BB HG
Buffalo (44) NEW ENGLAND	9-0 OU aft Jets... 4-1 OU away aft div HG... 3-1 OU L4 vs NE (51.2)... but 1-4 OU aft score 40+ pts... 2-6 OU L8 div RG 6-0 OU aft Saturday gm... 7-2 OU aft LAC... 3-1 OU L4 vs .700 > opp... 3-1 OU w/ dbl revenge... 3-1 OU as HD's 4 < pts
Chicago (42.5) GREEN BAY	4-1 OU aft Thur gm... but 0-4 OU L4 div RG... 0-4 OU aft Sea... 3-9 OU aft score 3 < pts... 2-6 OU vs .666 > opp 7-3 OU vs opp off Thur HG... but 0-5 OU aft Min... 1-5 OU off SU road loss... 1-4 OU as HF's 7 > pts
Miami (41.5) NY JETS	4-1 OU vs quad conf rev... 6-2 OU L8 div RG... 4-2 OU L6 vs Jets... 3-10 OU aft allow 7 < pts... 1-3 OU in 2nd of BB RG 3-0 OU aft Buf... 6-2 OU aft div RG... but 0-3 OU Game 17... 1-9 OU w/ quad revenge... 2-9 OU aft allow 40+ pts
Kansas City (39.5) DENVER	4-1 OU aft Pit... 7-2 OU 2nd of BB RG... 7-3 OU aft allow 10 < pts... but 0-3 OU L3 vs Den (30.0)... 2-8 OU aft Weekday gm 3-0 OU Game 17... 3-1 PU as favs 7 > pts... but 0-5 OU vs .750 > opp... 0-4 OU aft Cinc... 1-5 OU aft Saturday gm
La Chargers (42.5) LAS VEGAS	2-0 OU Game 17... 6-1 OU L7 as div RF's... but 0-5 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 0-3 OU aft Saturday gm... 1-5 OU aft NEng 5-0 OU L5 div HG... 4-1 OU L5 vs > .500 opp... 8-3 OU vs opp off Sat gm... but 1-4 OU L5 vs LAC... 2-6 OU aft non-conf RG
Jacksonville (44.5) INDIANAPOLIS	4-0 OU L4 vs Indy (60.2)... 3-0 OU aft allow < 14 pts... 5-1 OU vs trip revenge... 4-1 OU aft Tenn... 3-1 OU off SU home win 5-0 OU off DD SU loss... 3-0 OU aft NYG... 5-1 OU L6 vs .333 < opp... 7-2 OU w/ div revenge... 6-2 OU L8 as home favs
Carolina (47.5) TAMPA BAY	5-0 OU aft score 14 < pts... 3-0 OU off SU loss 21 > pts... 9-2 OU div RD's 4 > pts... but 1-6 OU aft TB... 2-5 OU aft allow 40+ pts 3-0 OU Game 17... 5-1 OU L6 as div HF's... but 1-4 OU aft Wash... 1-4 OU L5 vs .333 < opp... 1-3 OU L4 vs Car (37.0)
Washington (44.5) DALLAS	3-0 OU L3 vs Dal (54.3)... 6-2 OU L8 vs .500 < opp... but 1-6 OU as div RF's... 3-10 OU w/ trip revenge... 1-3 OU aft Atl 4-1 OU aft div RG... 12-3 OU L15 div HG... but 1-4 OU aft score 7 < pts... 3-6 OU aft Phil... 3-6 OU vs trip revenge
Seattle (44) LA RAMS	6-3 OU aft score 7 < pts... but 1-4 OU aft Thursday gm... 1-4 OU L5 div RG... 2-8 OU aft allow 7 < pts... 2-4 OU aft Chi 3-0 OU aft Sat gm... 6-1 OU vs trip revenge... 3-1 OU aft Ariz... but 0-4 OU L4 vs Sea (39.2)... 1-4 OU aft score 14 < pts
San Francisco (46.5) ARIZONA	6-0 OU vs opp off Sat gm... 5-0 OU away vs div L2Y... 3-0 OU Game 17... 5-1 OU w/ sing revenge... but 2-5 OU aft Monday gm 2-0 OU Game 17... 6-1-1 OU aft div RG... 5-1 OU L6 div HG... 3-1 OU aft Saturday RG... but 1-8 OU aft Rams
Houston (36) TENNESSEE	2-0 OU Game 17... 3-1 OU aft score 6 < pts... 7-3 POU aft Balt... but 2-9 OU aft Weekday gm... 1-3 OU L4 div RG 8-0 OU in 3rd straight div gm... 5-2 OU vs sing revenge... but 1-4 OU L5 vs Hou (36.6)... 3-8 OU L11 div HG
Minnesota (51.5) DETROIT	6-0 OU L6 vs Lions (54.8)... 4-0 OU aft div HG... 3-0 OU aft div RG... 6-1 OU away vs .700 > opp... 7-3 OU w/ OU 48.0 > pts 4-0 OU home off BB RG... 9-1 OU aft Monday gm... 4-1-1 OU TY vs .666 > opp... but 3-6 OU aft SF
Ny Giants (38.5) PHILADELPHIA	4-0 OU L4 vs .700 > opp... 4-1 OU L5 div RG... but 0-3 OU Game 17... 2-12 OU vs sing revenge... 1-4 OU aft non-conf HG 5-2 OU 2nd of BB HG... but 0-4 OU aft Dal... 1-5 OU vs .333 < opp... 1-4 OU L5 vs NYG (41.8)... 4-17 OU aft score 40+ pts

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**WISE
GUYS**



PLEASE NOTE: Due to holiday deadlines, this week's Wise Guys selections were not available before our publishing deadline.

Subscribers can read the usual 20 Wise Guys Contest single play selections at: https://www.playbooksports.com/2024_WG_plays.html

Or you can download a complete report of all selections for the final week of the contest for \$10 at: https://www.ipsports.net/ecps/ecapper_store/product_info.php?PRODUCT_ID=4100518&SITE_ID=0

Thank you. The Playbook team.

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	2.5	18	Houston Texans	AFC South	101	2.5	7	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	105	1.5
19	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	100.5	2.5	22	Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	98	2	27	New England Pats	AFC East	94.5	1.5
1	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	111	3.5	24	Jacksonville Jaguars	AFC South	96	1.5	28	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	94	2
4	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	106.5	3	6	Kansas City Chiefs	AFC West	106	2	31	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	92.5	1.5
32	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	91	1.5	28	Las Vegas Raiders	AFC West	94	2.5	23	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	97.5	2
25	Chicago Bears	NFC North	95.5	2.5	10	L.A. Chargers	AFC West	104.5	1.5	3	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	107	1.5
11	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	103	2	15	L.A. Rams	NFC West	103.5	2	16	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	102	1.5
21	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	98.5	2.5	20	Miami Dolphins	AFC East	100	2.5	13	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	102.5	1.5
28	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	94	3						13	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	102.5	1.5
17	Denver Broncos	AFC West	101.5	2.5						7	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	105	2
2	Detroit Lions	NFC North	107.5	2.5						25	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	95.5	2
4	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	106.5	2.5						7	Wash Commanders	NFC East	105	1.5

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A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT
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FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025		3★ BEST BET	4★ BEST BET	5★ BEST BET
	NFL	BENGALS	DOLPHINS	SEAHAWKS
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2025 PRO FOOTBALL - JANUARY 4-5

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
SATURDAY, JANUARY 4				339	CHICAGO 1:00 PM GREEN BAY FOX			353	WASHINGTON 1:00 PM DALLAS FOX	4	
				340		9'	14				1
343	CLEVELAND 4:30 PM			341	MIAMI ★ 4:25 PM	2'	14	357	SEATTLE ★ 4:25 PM		13
344	BALTIMORE ABC	18'	13	342	NY JETS FOX			358	LA RAMS FOX	2'	
355	CINCINNATI ★ 8:00 PM	2'	11	345	KANSAS CITY ★ 4:25 PM		3	359	SAN FRANCISCO 4:25 PM	1'	3
356	PITTSBURGH ABC			346	DENVER CBS	9'		360	ARIZONA FOX		
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5				347	LA CHARGERS 4:25 PM	3'	8	361	HOUSTON 1:00 PM		5
				348	LAS VEGAS CBS			362	TENNESSEE CBS	3	
335	NEW ORLEANS 1:00 PM			349	JACKSONVILLE 1:00 PM			363	MINNESOTA 8:20 PM		1
336	TAMPA BAY FOX	14	10	350	INDIANAPOLIS CBS	5'	10	364	DETROIT NBC	3	
337	BUFFALO CBS	1'	3	351	CAROLINA 1:00 PM			365	NY GIANTS 1:00 PM		
338	NEW ENGLAND			352	ATLANTA CBS	7'	12	366	PHILADELPHIA FOX	3	6

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