

Marc Lawrence's Weekly
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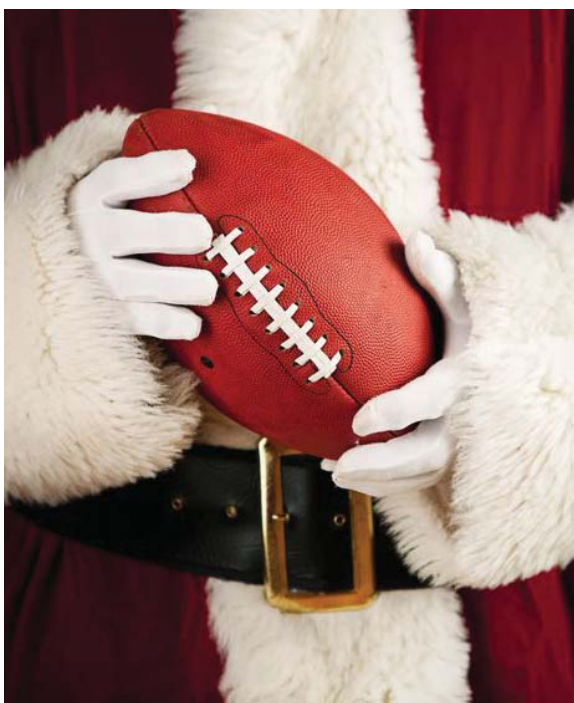
Volume 38, Issue 18

December 21-27, 2023

Marc's 10-Star NFL Game Of The Year Is Here!

BEST BETS 25-14-1
5★ BEST BETS 8-4-1

100% 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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RUNNIN' DOWN A DREAM

A Weekly Insight Into The Art Of Sports Handicapping

When the NFL asked Tom Petty to perform at halftime of the Super Bowl in 2008 he decided to do four full songs, rather than a medley of hits. In addition to "American Girl," "I Won't Back Down," and "Free Falling," Petty closed with "Running Down A Dream."

It was ironic given the fact that the undefeated New England Patriots, looking to run down a dream in their quest for perfection, suffered their only loss of the season to the New York Giants in a dramatic conclusion to the game. Thus, it became even more popular when ESPN played the song the next day during game highlights.

Hence, dreams of a memorable season can often go sideways at the worst of times. Just getting to the threshold of success requires greatness and a heavy helping hand from Dame Fortune herself. Without Lady Luck, there is a good chance a mediocre team will realize little reward.

In the NFL one thing is for certain: teams with porous rush defenses become money burners when cast into the role of a favorite. That's

because if you can't stop the run, there will be little fun to be had. Taking it one step further, I strongly advise you to...

PLAY AGAINST any unrested NFL road pick or favorite from Game Nine out if they allow 4.6 or more yards per rush.

Teams in this role are just 65-107-7 ATS since 1988, including **34-64-1 ATS** if they scored 27 or more points in their last game. That would put **Buffalo and Cincinnati** in harm's way this Saturday.

Put them up against a non-division foe and they fall to 16-36-2 ATS, including **2-15-1 ATS** the last six seasons. The Bills just may be biting off more than they bargained for this Saturday. It will be all head coach Sean McDermott can do make sure his troops do not play down to the level of the lowly Chargers this Saturday, especially behind a super-soft rush defense. Good luck with that.

So if you're looking to run down a dreamy situation in the NFL

this year, follow the formula – and crank up the speakers while you're singing along with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

*"Yeah, runnin' down a dream
That never would
come to me
Workin' on a mystery.
Goin' wherever it leads
Runnin' down a dream."*

THIS IS IT – my once-a-year **10-Star NFL Game of the Year** goes this Christmas weekend, and if it is anything like last year's 10-Star play on Seattle (+2) over the NY Jets, a 23-6 winner; or Arizona (+6.5) over Dallas in 2021, a 25-22 winner; you won't want to miss this beauty. Best of all, it's included with another **\$99 Football Week of Winners** this Saturday through Christmas, Monday – plus a **FREE BONUS WEEK** of all my College Bowl releases through Thursday, December 28... making this the best buy of the season! To join our winning team, call me toll-free at **800.321.7777** – or log on for instant service at PlaybookSports.com – you'll be glad you did!

Marc Lawrence

AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK

PLAY ON any NFL home dog of 3 or fewer points coming off three consecutive losses and back-to-back ATS losses versus a foe coming off three consecutive wins.

Play ON:
PITTSBURGH STEELERS (12/23)

**BLACK
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ATS W-L Record
Since 1990:

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(100%)**

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INCREDIBLE STAT OF THE WEEK

*NFL Game Fifteen dogs of +4.5 points
exact are 14-1 ATS, going 10-5 SU.
Check game time lines.*

2-MINUTE HANDICAP



FOR A COMPLETE 2-MINUTE HANDICAP OF EVERY GAME ON TODAY'S CARD, VISIT www.PLAYBOOK.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 21

BOCA RATON BOWL

Syracuse 13-4-1 SU and 14-4 ATS in bowl games since 1988
South Florida 0-3 SUATS in bowl games when coming off a DD win

Friday, December 22

GASPARILLA BOWL

Central Florida .500 bowlers off one win are 9-6 SUATS vs. foe off one loss
Georgia Tech Worst rushing defense of all bowlers, ranked No. 128

Saturday, December 23

BIRMINGHAM BOWL

Duke 6-0 ATS last six bowl games... 0-2 ATS all-time vs. Sun Belt
Troy 14-3 SU and 15-2 ATS vs. fellow bowlers last two years

CAMELLIA BOWL

Arkansas State Sun Belt teams are 5-11-1 ATS in bowls vs. MAC foes off a win
Northern Illinois 12-2 ATS off a double-digit ATS loss (10-0 ATS as a dog)

ARMED FORCES BOWL

James Madison 19-4 SU and 17-7 ATS since joining the FBS
Air Force 9-0 L9 as non-conf dogs... 8-2 ATS last ten bowl games

POTATO BOWL

Georgia State Panthers 7-0 ATS with rest off back-to-back losses
Utah State HC Anderson: 7-3 ATS off one win-exact vs. foe off a loss

68 VENTURES BOWL

South Alabama .500 bowlers are 6-1 ATS off a SU fav loss if facing a .500 foe
E Michigan 4-1 ATS as a bowl team... 12-5 ATS as a double-digit dog

LAS VEGAS BOWL

Utah 0-4 SU last four bowl games... 1-3 SUATS L4 vs. Big Ten foe
Northwestern Big Ten is 14-6 SU and 15-5 ATS vs. Pac-12 last 20 bowls

HAWAI'I BOWL

Coastal Carolina 20-9 ATS as a dog of < 12 points... 4th straight bowl for CCU
San Jose State 0-2 SUATS last two bowls... No. 3 Turnover Margin TY (+1.08)

Tuesday, December 26

QUICK LANE BOWL

Bowling Green 2-8 ATS in bowl games since 1992 (0-6 ATS off win)
Minnesota 6-0 SU and 5-1 ATS L6 bowls... No. 1 Fewest Penalties this (36)

FIRST RESPONDER BOWL

Texas State Chalk in this bowl is 8-2-1 ATS... No. 119 in net TOs (-0.67)
Rice 7-1 ATS last seven games as a dog of 13 or fewer points

GUARANTEED RATE BOWL

Kansas Chalk in this bowl is 6-0 ATS... Jayhawks 5-2 SUATS L7 bowls
UNLV 8-1 ATS as double-digit dog vs. foe coming off a win

Wednesday, December 27

MILITARY BOWL

Virginia Tech 1-11 ATS when both teams favored last game
Tulane 5-0 ATS as a dog if .400 > coming off SU favorite loss

DUKE'S MAYO BOWL

North Carolina Heels started 6-0 before finishing 2-4 SU and 0-5 ATS out
West Virginia Mountaineers are 2-6 SU and 0-8 ATS last eight bowl games.

HOLIDAY BOWL

Louisville Chalk is 1-8 ATS in this bowl... No. 1 in Red Zone Defense
USC Pac-12 bowlers are 0-15 ATS since 2016 off a SUATS loss

TEXAS BOWL

Texas A&M 1-5 SU, 1-4-1 ATS, 2-4 ITS vs. fellow bowlers this season
Oklahoma State 6-1 ATS L7 games in this series... 4-2 ATS L6 as a bowl dog

TEAMS KEY FACTS, STATS & ATS TRENDS

Thursday, December 21

New Orleans 7-3 in 1st of BB RG... 0-4 Thursdays L3Y... 0-4 bef div RG
LA RAMS SERIES: Host 9-0... 8-3 home vs NFC South... 0-6 aft Wash

Saturday, December 23

Cincinnati SERIES: Visitor 4-1... 6-1 bef non-conf RG... 1-3 L4 div RG
PITTSBURGH 7-0 aft Indy... 4-0 Saturday HG... 6-2 vs sing conf revenge

Buffalo 9-0 vs opp off Thursday gm... 1-7 vs opp off loss 21 > pts
LA CHARGERS SERIES: 4-1 L5... 1-8 on Saturdays... 1-5 aft Thursday gm

Sunday, December 24

Indianapolis SERIES: 6-1 L7... 6-2 L8 non-conf RG... 7-3 vs NFC South
ATLANTA 5-1 Last Home Game... 1-4 L5 non-conf HG... 1-3 aft Car

Green Bay 10-1 bef div RG... 5-2 bef Min... 5-2 as non-div RF's > 4 pts
CAROLINA SERIES: 3-1 L4... 1-4 vs NFC North... 3-7 bef non-conf RG

Cleveland 3-1 vs AFC South... 3-1 bef NYJ... 5-2 aft non-conf HG
HOUSTON SERIES: 7-1 L8... 6-1 vs > .500 opp... 0-8 in 1st of BB HG

Seattle 4-1 as non-conf RF's... 3-1 vs AFC South... 1-3 aft Phil
TENNESSEE SERIES: 6-1 L7... 5-1 vs NFC West... 2-5 in 2nd of BB HG

Washington 5-0 L5 non-conf RG... 8-1-1 as non-div dogs 4 < pts
NY JETS SERIES: 4-0 L4... 4-2 vs NFC East... 3-6 L9 non-conf HG

Detroit SERIES: 5-0 L5... 5-0 aft non-conf HG... 5-1 L6 div RG
MINNESOTA 6-0 L6 as div HD's... 5-1 aft Cincy... 6-2 aft non-conf RG

Jacksonville 6-1 away TY... 1-5 L6 non-conf RG... 2-10 vs NFC South
TAMPA BAY SERIES: 2-0 L2... 4-1-1 vs AFC South... 0-6 bef div HG

Dallas SERIES: 3-1 L4... 11-3 in 2nd of BB RG... 0-5 aft Bu
MIAMI 5-1 aft Jets... 5-2 vs NFC East... 4-2 as non-div HD's 4 < pts

Arizona SERIES: 5-1 L6... 7-3 in 1st of BB RG... 1-5 L6 vs NFC North
CHICAGO 1-5 as non-div HF's 6 < pts... 2-5 L7 vs NFC West

New England SERIES: 6-2 L8... 8-1 aft KC... 3-1 as non-div RD's 4 > pts
DENVER 1-11 bef LAC... 2-9 aft non-conf RG... 2-7 L9 vs .333 < opp

Monday, December 25

Las Vegas 4-1 off SU win 21 > pts... 6-3 on Mondays... 1-4 aft LAC
KANSAS CITY SERIES: 4-1 L5... 4-1 as favs 9 > pts... 0-3 Mondays L3Y

Ny Giants 4-1 Monday RG... 0-3 TY vs .666 > opp... 0-3 bef LAR
PHILADELPHIA SERIES: 3-1 L4... 6-0 bef Arz... 2-6 as div HF's 7 > pts

Baltimore 11-2 vs .700 > opp... 6-3 in 2nd of BB RG... 1-5 aft Jack
SAN FRANCISCO SERIES: 3-1 L4... 7-1 aft Arz... 7-1 vs .700 > opp

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PRO FOOTBALL

Thursday, December 21

3★ BEST BET

LA RAMS over New Orleans by 13

Seven games this week pairing .500 or greater teams, and this is one of them. For what it's worth, the league has witnessed 69 such matchups this season, with those teams coming off a win and taking points just 17-29-2 ATS as a dog. That would put New Orleans in a pickle this week. Meanwhile, this is a key battle for playoff positioning with the Rams currently holding down the No. 7 playoff seed, edging out the Saints as Los Angeles owns the better conference record, thus making this a playoff game in its own right. Our NFL Head Coaches' Database reminds us that Saints mentor Dennis Allen is 6-15 SU and 4-15-2 ATS in games when his team is coming off a win, including **1-7-1 ATS** coming off a double-digit win. On the other side of the field, L.A.'s Sean McVay has taken care of business in games against NFC South foes, going 10-5 SU and 9-5-1 ATS. With the home team in this series, a stellar **8-0 SUATS**, and Allen **0-4 SU** and **0-3-1 ATS** in his career in games when coming off consecutive ATS wins, you know what to do. Especially with added artillery coming from **THE CLINCHER: The Well-Oiled Machine** notes that **NFL away teams from Game 15 out, coming off three consecutive home games – the last two outright wins – are 7-21 ATS, including 1-8 SUATS as a dog of 4-plus points.**

Saturday, December 23

5★ BEST BET

PITTSBURGH over Cincinnati by 11

You know things are going bad in Pittsburgh for Mike Tomlin, with his 16-year career mark of never having suffered a losing season on the line, and he needs to resort to Mason Rudolph, who will be making his eleventh start as an NFL quarterback. However, he's gone 5-4-1 SU and 5-3-2 ATS, including a 2-0 SU and 1-0-1 ATS slate against the Bengals. It's Tomlin's 22-9 SU and 17-12-1 ATS ledger in games when the Steelers enter dead-level .500 that serves as the starting point today, though. We realize the Steelers' OL has been offensive this season and is a large contributing reason that starting QB Kenny Pickett resides on the IR. We're also aware of the fact that the Black and Gold are averaging 13 points over their last five games as they enter today's game with less than a 5% chance of making this year's playoffs, per CBS Sports. Fortunately for Pittsburgh, the Colts and Texans play each other in Week 18, so one of those teams will suffer a seventh loss. Both the Texans and Colts have tiebreakers over Pittsburgh, though, after beating the Steelers earlier this season. This means that the Steelers will have to finish with a better record than both squads – which means winning out is mandatory for Tomlin's troops. Tomlin can also lean on his 11-7 SU mark in games against .550 or greater foes in which Pittsburgh is riding a 3-game losing streak, including **5-0 SUATS** the last five games in the Steel City. Meanwhile, the Bengals lug a 2-6 SU and 3-5 ATS mark in Saturday road games into the fray, including **0-5 SUATS** against foes coming off back-to-back losses – which ties nicely into the Steelers' **4-0 SUATS** ledger as a host on regular season Saturdays. And finally, if Marc's **AWESOME ANGLE** on page 2 isn't enough, we can always lean on **THE CLINCHER: Pittsburgh head coach Tomlin is 11-4 SU and 9-5-1 ATS at home in games when the Steelers sport a .500 exact win percentage, including 4-0 SUATS as a dog.**

Buffalo over **LA CHARGERS** by 6

Whoa, Nellie. A lot has happened surrounding this game since the Westgate SuperBook installed Buffalo as a 1-point favorite prior to the start of the season, the most obvious of which would be the loss of Chargers' star QB Justin Herbert. But there's more ... lots more ... including the recent firing of Bolts' head coach Brandon Staley, not to mention the recent reawakening of the suddenly relevant Bills. The

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hand we're now forced to play is either an L.A. squad that has been a double-digit home dog only one time since at least 1980 but is **5-0 ATS** in its last five games in a double-digit underdog role – or a runaway train herd of Bills that has won each of their last six games on Saturdays by an average win margin of 17 points per game, but is only **0-6 ATS** in its last six games as a double-digit favorite? We do know the Bills lose the conference tiebreakers with Cincinnati as well as the Colts and the Texans, and we're sure head coach Sean McDermott does too. The Chargers' head coach Brandon Staley became the second Bolts' head coach to be fired midseason since 1970, joining Kevin Gilbride, who was fired in 1998 and replaced by June Jones. So, while Los Angeles looks to be little more than roadkill at this stage of the season, we would advise you not to feast on the carcass. For openers, the Bills are **1-7 ATS** against foes coming off a loss of 21-plus points, as well as 7-11 ATS as road chalk of eight or more points. In addition, Buffalo has struggled in this series, going 1-4 SUATS in the last five meetings. And the **MIDWEEK ALERT** jumps in noting that Buffie allows 4.6 yards per rush on defense. For what it's worth, NFL road favorites who surrender 4.6 or more yards per rush are just 5-13-1 ATS this century. With the Bills eyeing up a pair of season-ending division duke outs, we make this our 'caveat emptor' call of the week – buyer beware.

Sunday, December 24

Indianapolis over ATLANTA by 6

The Colts are kicking up a storm this season under freshman head coach Shane Steichen while clinging to the No. 7 and final seed in the AFC Playoff Picture, holding tiebreakers over both Houston and Buffalo. It means every game is important moving forward, namely winning the ones they are expected to win (read: favored). The good news is they will close out the season at home the final two weeks against the Raiders and Texans. The only thing promising for the Falcons, should they need it, is they own the head-to-head tiebreaker over Green Bay, at the moment a game out of the NFC Wild Card spot after last week's gut-wrenching loss at Carolina. They'll turn to the H-bomb today with rag-rag QB Taylor Heinicke back behind center where he enters 12-15-1 SU and 13-14-1 ATS as a starter in his NFL career. The problem is the Dirty Birds are 7-16 ATS at home under head coach Arthur Smith, as well as 13-18 SU and 10-20-1 ATS overall in non-division games – including **1-12 ATS** in their last thirteen non-division games. With the Horseshoes **6-1 ATS** the last seven games in this series, we'll ride the hotter hand with the Colts.

Green Bay over CAROLINA by 8

The Packers took a big tumble in the NFC Playoff Picture with last week's home loss to the Buccaneers, dropping to No. 11 while losing the head-to-head tiebreaker to the Falcons. Meanwhile, despite last week's win over Atlanta, the Panthers are one of six teams that have

officially been eliminated from the playoffs. To no one's surprise, Carolina is 1-9 SU and 3-7 ATS lately when coming off a win. They are also 1-4 ATS against the NFC North. The Packers enter this fray as the No. 11 overall seed in the current NFC Playoff Picture and should be fully focused here. With head coach Matt LaFleur 16-9 ATS in his career when coming off a loss, including 10-5 SU and 11-4 ATS from game Eight out, you know exactly what to do.

HOUSTON over Cleveland by 3

When it comes to NFL Coach of the Year, Cleveland's Kevin Stefanski has to be in the mix. He became the first Browns' head coach since Marty Schottenheimer in 1988 to have two winning seasons in his tenure, and he's done it despite having 26% of the team's salary cap on the IR most of the season. Cleveland avoided a Hail Mary disaster on the final play of the game last week when a Bears' receiver failed to hold on to a ball that landed in his lap in the end zone. It upped the Browns' record this season to five wins when trailing with less than 2:00 remaining in the 4Q. If nothing else, it speaks to the importance of what owning the league's top-ranked defense does for you – it helps keep you alive deep into the game. Needless to say, this is a huge game for the Texans, who, with a win today, would move into a tie with Cleveland – but Houston would then hold the tiebreaker. At press time it appeared more likely than not that star rookie phenom QB C.J. Stroud was not going to move off the concussion protocol. As a result, for the second straight week a 5-point line swing has swung the Browns to the favorite at press time. If Stroud is sidelined, it means Case Keenum would be going up against his former teammates. He'll bring a 19-12-2 ATS career dog log into this fray, including **10-1-1 ATS** against foes coming off consecutive wins. With the Texans **6-1 ATS** in their last seven games against winning foes, and the Browns **1-7 ATS** the last eight games in this series, we can only look one way here today with the Texans' back up against the playoff wall.

UPSET GAME OF THE WEEK UPSET

TENNESSEE over Seattle by 3

Each team enters today's contest with disparate results – at least from a mental aspect. The Titans blew a late lead and lost at home in overtime to Houston, while the Seahawks rallied from the clouds to pull out a last-second shocker over the Eagles on Monday night. As such, Seattle takes the field as the No. 8 seed in the current NFC Playoff Picture, while the Titans are looking forward to the 2024 campaign. With it, however, the pressure mounts on a Seahawks' squad that has now been outgained in each of their last four games as they bring along a phony sense of accomplishment. Given Seattle's 0-5 outright record in road games this season since its Bye Week, and Tennessee's **6-1 ATS** mark in this series, look for the Titans to improve on its 13-5 SU and 11-6-1 ATS at home off a loss under Mike Vrabel, including **4-0 SUATS** this season. And look for the Seabags to a taste of touch of reality today, especially with Ryan Tannehill rumored to be behind center for the Titans today.

Washington over NY JETS by 3

What a difference a week makes in the lives of New York football faithful. The Giants were riding high on a 'where-did-that-come-from' three game win streak, while the Jets laid a 24-point loss on C.J. Stroud and the Texans. However, it didn't take long for reality to settle in when, one week later they combined to score a total of just 6 points in a pair of wipeout losses last Sunday. The Jets had 4 yards of offense in the first half of last week's 30-0 whitewash loss to their division rival and will now have missed the NFL playoffs for 13 seasons in a row while going 19 games without a touchdown of the past seven seasons. Like the Jets, the Commanders have their gold bags packed too. Washington, though, is 5-0 ATS in its last five non-conference road games as well as 8-1-1 ATS as a non-division dog of 4 or fewer points. Marc's Well-Oiled Machine seals the deal, though, as it notes that Game Fifteen non-division teams coming off five losses exactly are 15-3 ATS when coming off a pair of ATS losses. That's all we needed to hear.

MINNESOTA over Detroit by 4

The Lions are up three games over the Vikings in the NFC North and are currently the No. 3 seed in the conference. They trail the 49ers by one game for the top record in the conference. On the other side of

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the field, Minnesota enters as the No.6 seed in the NFC Playoff Picture, thus assuring this contest will likely be in a playoff atmosphere. However, the team that can least likely afford a loss is the 7-7 Vikings, as no less than four other seven-win teams are in pursuit. Much like the Cleveland Browns, Team Thor is operating on their fourth starting quarterback this season – yet they still remain in playoff contention. A tip of the hat to head coach Kevin O'Connell as it's been a nice year for the coaching Kevin's this campaign. With Minnesota sporting a **6-0 ATS** log as division home dogs, as well as **13-2 ATS** as a dog off a loss when facing a foe coming off a win as a favorite, the points become the play in this division fray today.

Jacksonville over TAMPA BAY by 4

Three up and three down. It's an MLB term, but it applies here with the Bucs riding a three-game win streak – and with it, they sit atop the NFC South with the No. 4 seed in the NFC Playoff Picture. Meanwhile, despite a recent 0-3 SUATS losing slide, the Jaguars still sit atop the AFC South with tiebreakers over the Texans and Colts. Tampa Bay was already facing a banged-up Jacksonville Jaguars team this week and now, it might get worse when Sunday comes around as Jacksonville announced on Monday that quarterback Trevor Lawrence has entered concussion protocol after his game against the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday night. Lawrence did not leave the game for a concussion but was evaluated and then placed in protocol afterward. Lawrence has never missed a start due to injury, so this would be his first time should he not play against the Bucs. However, **only one quarterback so far this season has made it out of concussion protocol the same week he entered it**, as San Francisco 49ers QB Brock Purdy did so after playing the Minnesota Vikings earlier in the year. The NFL protocol process involves passing through five steps. Things move sequentially, starting with gentle activity like stretching and progressing through more and more intense work. If the player doesn't have "an increase or aggravation of signs or symptoms" after the prescribed activities, he can advance to the next level. Also, an independent neurological consultant has to clear the player to officially return to the lineup. Warming up in the bullpen will be Jags' QB C. J. Beathard, who played in relief of Lawrence when he suffered an ankle sprain against the Cincinnati Bengals and completed 12 of his 14 passing attempts for 77 yards. Beathard is 2-10 SU and 5-7 ATS overall in his NFL career starts. On the other side of the field, Tampa QB Baker Mayfield had a record-setting perfect game last week on the road against the Packers. Mayfield became the third quarterback in NFL history to record over 375 passing yards, four touchdown passes, and a 158.3 passer rating in a road game, including the first ever at Lambeau Field. Sunday's game also marked the first time he's thrown for a perfect passer rating. You know of our desire to fade teams and quarterbacks after record-breaking performances. While Jacksonville is just 2-10 SUATS in its last twelve games against the NFC South, they are **6-1 ATS** away this season, while Tampa Bay enters just **1-6 ATS** hosting .600 or greater opponents. Should Lawrence be watching the game from the sidelines, look for a "rally around the backup" effort from the Jags in support of its missing leader. Should he start, we'll be ready to snap the rubber band.

(continued on next page)

4★ BEST BET

MIAMI over Dallas by 13

We're going to learn a lot about each of these teams this week. Despite the fact that each is currently ranked No. 2 in their respective conferences in the current NFL Playoff Picture, both come with warts. The white elephant in the room wonders whether the Cowboys can win road games and if the Dolphins can't beat a winning team. So, what gives here, with Dallas just 6-15 SUATS away in its last twenty-one games against winning foes - including 0-3 SUATS this year by an average loss margin of 23 PPG - and Miami is 6-14 outright versus teams with a winning record, including 0-3 SUATS this season. One would think this to be a battle for the cellar rather than for the top seeds. Tua completed 21 of 24 passes in last week's 30-0 dismantling of the Jets, as they have scored 30-plus points eight times this season. Our biggest concern today, though, is they mustered only 290 yards of offense, meaning the cuffs and the collars don't match. While they are currently the No. 2 seed in the AFC Playoff Picture, Miami can claim the top-seed should it win out - and it would certainly deserve so, having to go up against the likes of the Cowboys here, and the Ravens and Bills to conclude the campaign. Fortunately, they are 9-2 SUATS at home coming off a home game as a favorite after dressing up as a favorite the previous game, including **6-0 ATS** when not favored by seven or more points. Meanwhile, Dallas has a -4 point differential on the road in 2023 (14th in the NFL) while leading the league with a +171 point differential at home in 2023 - and that's with a 40-point road win in its season opener at the Giants. We button this up with **THE CLINCHER: NFL home favorites coming off a home shutout win are 10-2 SU and 9-3 ATS since 2000 against an opponent coming off an away game, including 7-0 SUATS if they sport a sub .750 win percentage.**

CHICAGO over Arizona by 1

Odds are there will not be many eyeballs tuned into the game as these two losers bring a combined total of eight victories this season into this contest. It's been the Cardinals that have captured the cash in the series, going 5-1 ATS. They are also 7-3 ATS in the first of back-to-back road games and 9-2 ATS in their last eleven non-division games. Traveling down the Bear path, we find Chicago just 1-5 ATS as short non-division home chalk of 6 or fewer points, as well as 2-5 SUATS in its last seven games against the NFC West. Connect the dots.

DENVER over New England by 10

The Broncos fell all the way to the No. 11 seed in the AFC Playoff Picture with last week's loss to the Lions. They are now one game out of the final playoff spot and drop the conference record tiebreaker to the Steelers. But with a quick glance at the schedule, we note the Wild Horses have a very manageable itinerary with the Chargers and the Raiders up next to close out the campaign. A 10-1 SU and 10-0-1 ATS dog log in games when both teams are coming off underdog losses in their previous game, sets the table. The Pats' piss-poor 1-11 SUATS mark in their last dozen non-division tilts seals the deal.

Monday, December 25

KANSAS CITY over Las Vegas by 14

A game that had all the promise at the beginning of the season is simply another circus act in Vegas. Surprisingly, the line set in this game at the Westgate SuperBook in Las Vegas before the season started was the Chiefs -9.5, which is where it sits today. This means, more than anything else, Kansas City has underperformed this season. That is until you review their body of work in the **MIDWEEK ALERT** this week, where the Chiefs are one of only five teams in the league that sport both a Top 10 offense and a Top 10 defense, which should not have a problem against Las Vegas' 28th-ranked offense. We realize they are only 0-3 ATS coming off their previous three wins this season,

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and the Raiders are the second foe in a row that will take on the Chiefs with a rest advantage, but when coming off a win of late Andy Reid is 15-1 SU in his last sixteen division games when coming off one win exactly, and 71-28 ATS in games he wins outright as a favorite against foes arriving off a win. With NFL teams **1-5 SU and 0-6 ATS** since 1989 in games after scoring 60-plus points in their last games, we're randy for Andy this week.

PHILADELPHIA over NY Giants by 16

Oh my. The chant Fly Eagles Fly has turned to Cry Eagles Cry lately. Riding a three-game losing skid for the first time since closing out the 2020 season, Philadelphia was 24-4 in the previous 28 regular season games prior to their three-game losing streak, and despite the sky falling they can still win the NFC East by winning out. This looks to be the first major step in that direction as they've beaten Big Blue like a red-headed stepchild of late, going 25-6 SU and 18-12-1 ATS since 2008. In addition, previous year Super Bowl losing teams are on a 9-1 SU and 7-3 ATS run when playing off three successive losses, including **3-0 SUATS** at home by an average win margin of 14 points per game. With the Giants returning to earth after a rare three-game win streak despite being outgained in each of their last seven games and just 0-3 ATS against .666 or greater foes this year, we look for the birds to fly high tonight.

SAN FRANCISCO over Baltimore by 3

You can rest assured that if this game was not being played on Christmas Day, it would have been the highest-rated Monday Night game in NFL history. It is already a possible Super Bowl preview between the two No. 1 seeds. Yes, this is a must-see, prime-time television. And, as you might expect, each team brings an arsenal of good numbers into the game. Baltimore is 6-3 SU and **7-1-1 ATS** away on Mondays, including 4-0-1 ATS as a dog. Better yet, star QB Lamar Jackson is **18-1 SU** in his career against NFC opposition. The Black Birds are also 11-2 ATS against .700 or great foes. And speaking of superstars, for the 37th time in his NFL career, Jackson led his team in both rushing and passing yards in the same game in last week's 23-7 win versus Jacksonville. On the other side of the coin, Niners' RB Christian McCaffrey is the only NFL player all-time with 1,000 rushing and receiving yards in the same season - and he still has three games to go. Like Baltimore, San Francisco is 7-1 ATS against .700 or better opponents. Ravens' head coach John Harbaugh brings an exceptional 80-53-9 ATS career mark as a visitor, while 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan is 15-3 SU and 11-6-1 ATS at home in his career when the Niners sport a .750 or greater win percentage. In a battle of the league's best, we'll grab the points.

NOTE: Home team is shown in ALL CAPS. PLAYBOOK selection is **Underlined and Bold**. Should we pass or not have a strong opinion on a game, neither team will be bolded.

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 \$33.00. Sent via email on Tuesdays. Call the PLAYBOOK offices to get on the 2023 "Totals Train"! ***This week's GAME 16 Playbook O/U TREND play: Lions @ Vikings 'OVER' the TOTAL'**

2023 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – WEEK SIXTEEN

GAME MATCHUPS	KEY OVER/UNDER STATS
New Orleans (Open: 44.5) LA RAMS	0-3 OU L3 away vs LAR... 0-2 OU Game 15... 1-6 OU bef div RG... 2-11 OU Thursdays... 1-5 OU bef TB... 1-5 OU 1st of BB RG 0-4 OU on Thursdays L4Y... 1-6 OU aft Wash... 1-4 OU in 2nd of BB HG... 3-12 OU as favs > 3 pts... 3-9 OU bef NYG
Cincinnati (38.5) PITTSBURGH	4-0 OU w/ sing div revenge... 3-1 OU game 15... but 1-4 OU Saturdays... 3-8 OU aft non-conf HG... 2-4 OU L6 div RG 0-3 OU Saturday HG... 3-9 OU aft score < 14 pts... 3-9 OU off SU Loss 14 > pts... 3-8 OU vs sing div rev... 3-6 OU L9 div HG
Buffalo (40.5) LA CHARGERS	8-0 OU Saturdays... 3-0-1 OU Game 15... 3-1 OU L4 away vs LAC (58.5)... but 0-7 OU aft Dal... 1-3 OU non-div RF's 6 > pts 5-2 OU bef Den... but 1-7 OU Saturdays... 1-7 OU Game 15... 1-4 OU aft LV... 1-4 OU aft allow 40+ pts... 2-4 OU aft Thur gm
Indianapolis (43.5) ATLANTA	5-2 OU L7 non-conf RG... but 0-6 OU aft Saturday gm... 1-5 OU bef LV... 1-3 OU aft Pit... 1-3 OU Game 15 6-1 OU vs opp off Sat gm... 9-2 OU aft Car... but 0-8-1 OU Game 15... 0-6 OU L6 non-conf HG... 2-6 OU aft div RG
Green Bay (36) CAROLINA	5-1 OU as non-div RF's > 3 pts... 7-2 OU away vs NFC south... but 0-7 OU bef Min... 1-3 OU Game 15... 3-7 OU vs .250 < opp 9-0 OU vs non-div off BB div gms... 7-2 OU L9 vs GB (53.8)... 5-2 OU bef non-conf RG... but 1-8 OU Game 15
Cleveland (41.5) HOUSTON	6-0 OU away TY (54.9)... 7-3 OU vs AFC South... but 0-9-1 OU Game 15... 2-10 OU L12 vs Hou (35.9)... 3-8 OU bef Thur gm 0-5 OU in 1st of BB HG... 1-6 OU bef Tenn... 1-5 OU bef div HG... 1-4 OU vs > .500 opp TY... 3-8 OU aft div RG
Seattle (44) TENNESSEE	6-1 OU L7 away vs Ten... 11-3 OU as non-conf RF's... 9-4 OU aft Phil... but 0-6 OU bef non-conf HG... 1-6 OU aft Mon gm 6-2 OU Game 15... but 0-3 OU aft Hou... 1-6 OU bef div RG... 1-4 OU L5 non-conf HG... 1-4 OU vs opp of Mon gm
Washington (39) NY JETS	4-0 OU L4 vs NYJ (50.2)... 4-1 OU game 15... but 1-7 OU bef SF... 1-5 OU L6 non-conf RG... 2-7 OU aft Rams 4-1 OU aft div RG... but 0-4 OU bef Clev... 1-4 OU bef Thur gm... 1-3 OU aft Mia... 1-3 OU Game 15... 1-3 OU L4 non-conf HG
Detroit (45.5) MINNESOTA	3-0 OU aft non-conf HG... 8-2 OU off SU win 21 >... 3-1 OU as div RF's... 7-3 OU aft Sat gm... but 2-7 OU in 1st of BB RG 3-0 OU Game 15... 5-1 OU L6 vs Det (54.5)... 8-3 OU L11 div HG... 5-2 OU bef GBay... but 2-12 OU w/ sing div revenge
Jacksonville (44) TAMPA BAY	4-0 OU aft Balt... 4-0 OU L4 non-conf RG... 6-2 OU aft score 7 < pts... 3-1 OU L4 vs TB (52.5)... but 1-5 OU L6 vs NFC South 5-1 OU L6 non-conf HG... 5-2 OU off road dog win... but 0-6 OU Game 15... 0-4 OU TY vs > .500 opp... 1-4 OU bef Norl
Dallas (51) MIAMI	4-0 OU aft Buf... 3-0 OU Game 15... 7-2 OU L2Y vs > .600 opp... but 1-12 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 1-6 OU aft score < 14 pts 7-1 OU in 3rd straight HG... but 0-3 OU L3 vs Dal (38.0)... 1-4 OU L5 non-conf HG... 3-9 OU aft allow 7 > pts
Arizona (43.5) CHICAGO	4-0 OU aft SF... 5-1 OU L6 vs Chi (51.0)... but 0-6 OU in 1st of BB RG... 0-6 OU Game 15... 2-9 OU aft allow 35+ pts 3-0 OU Game 15... 4-1 OU L5 vs NFC West... 3-1 OU bef Atl... 11-4 OU in 1st of BB HG... but 1-6 OU L7 as non-div HF's
New England (36) DENVER	5-1 OU aft KC... 5-1 OU bef div RG... 3-1 OU bef Buf... 3-1 OU as non-div RD's 4 > pts... but 1-6 OU in 1st of BB RG 6-2 OU L8 vs NE (50.6)... but 0-5 OU aft Sat gm... 0-3 OU aft Det... 1-4 OU bef LAC... 3-10 OU as non-div HF's 4 > pts
Las Vegas (42.5) KANSAS CITY	6-1 OU L7 vs KC (57.3)... but 0-4-1 OU aft LAC... 1-5 OU Game 15... 1-4 OU on Mondays... 1-4 OU L5 div RG 3-1 OU as div HF's 7 > pts... but 1-9 OU in 1st of BB HG... 1-6 OU on Mondays... 1-5 OU aft NEng... 1-3 OU Game 15
Ny Giants (44) PHILADELPHIA	4-0 OU aft Norl... 4-1 OU Game 15... 6-3-1 OU L10 div RG... but 1-5 OU Monday RG... 1-5 OU L6 vs .666 > opp 3-0 OU bef Arz... 7-1 OU L8 div HG... 4-1 OU Game 15... but 2-7 OU on Mondays... 2-5 OU L7 vs NYG (43.4)
Baltimore (45) SAN FRANCISCO	5-1 OU Monday RG... 5-1 OU aft allow 7 < pts... 10-3 OU as dogs 4 > pts... but 1-6 OU in 2nd of BB RG... 1-5 OU aft Jack 4-1 OU L5 vs .700 > opp... 8-3 OU Game 15... 5-2 OU aft Arz... 5-2 OU L7 non-conf HG... but 1-3 OU Mondays

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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 15 of the 2023 Wise Guys Contest (first-word alphabetical order) 1-One Point Single Plays Listed

Brady Kannon brady.kannon@gmail	RAVENS +5'	16-14 / 10-5 / 26 pts	Marc Lawrence PlaybookSports.com	BROWNS +2'	19-11 / 9-6 / 28 pts
Dionne D'Amico dfasano10@gmail	Tulane +10'	16-14 / 10-5 / 26 pts	Marco D'Angelo marco@wagertalk.com	MIA OVR 51'	15-15 / *10-5 / 26 pts
Doc's Sports max@docsports.com	CHIEFS -10'	17-13 / *9-6 / 27 pts	Mark The Pin PlaybookSports.com	CHARGERS +11'	17-13 / 9-6 / 26 pts
Don Buster busterpeabody@hotmail	SAINTS +4'	17-13 / 9-6 / 26 pts	Ralph Michaels ralph@wagertalk	BILLS -11'	18-12 / 8-7 / 26 pts
Dr Alan Caprec88@aol	SAINTS +4'	17-13 / *9-6 / 27 pts	Ross Benjamin RossBenjaminsports.com	BROWNS +2'	18-12 / *10-5 / 29 pts
E-R Picks stopa12@yahoo	Co Carolina +10'	19-11 / 10-5* / 29 pts	Scott Wetzal swoppositopicks@yahoo	DOLPHINS -1'	18-12 / *12-3 / 31 pts
Joe D'Amico allamericansi@cox.net	COLTS -2'	18-12 / 9-6 / 27 pts	Solomon Sports adamberns1807@yahoo	E Michigan +16'	16-14 / 9-6 / 25 pts
Joe Nelson NellySports.com	PANTHERS +5'	16-14 / 10-5 / 26 pts	Special K Sports specialksports@aol	FALCONS +2'	16-14 / *7-8* / 24 pts
Kelly In Vegas kelly@wagertalk.com	BUCS +0.5	17-13 / 8-7 / 25 pts	TD Tony tdtony@hotmail	RAVENS +5'	17-13 / 8-7 / 25 pts
Las Vegas Cris cris4700@aol	RAVENS +5'	15-15 / *8-7 / 24 pts	Victor King vic@playbooksports.com	RAMS OVR 44'	17-13 / 10-5 / 27 pts

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KENNY WHITE'S 2023 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														
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	UMass	Independent	80.5	2.5
113	East Carolina	American Athletic	88	4	27	North Carolina	Atlantic Coast	110	4.5	15	UNLV	Mountain West	96.5	2
117	E Michigan	Mid-American	86.5	2	105	North Texas	American Athletic	90	3	97	USC	Pac-12	114	4
46	Florida	Southeastern	104.5	5	89	No Illinois	Mid-American	93	4	27	USF	American Athletic	92	3
97	Florida Atlantic	American Athletic	92	3	73	Northwestern	Big Ten	96.5	3.5	105	Utah	Pac-12	110	4.5
128	Florida Int'l	Conference USA	80.5	2.5	8	Notre Dame	Atlantic Coast	121.5	5	121	Utah St	Mountain West	90	4
19	Florida St	Atlantic Coast	113	5	5	Ohio State	Big Ten	125.5	6	40	UTEP	Conference USA	84.5	3
81	Fresno St	Mountain West	95	4.5	11	Oklahoma	Big 12	118	5	105	UTSA	American Athletic	106	3
3	Georgia	Southeastern	127	6	38	Oklahoma St	Big 12	106.5	5	105	Vanderbilt	Southeastern	90	4
97	Geo Southern	Sun Belt	92	2.5	109	Old Dominion	Sun Belt	89.5	2.5	77	Virginia	Atlantic Coast	96	4.5
105	Georgia St	Sun Belt	90	2	4	Oregon	Pac-12	126	5	52	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	103	5
56	Georgia Tech	Atlantic Coast	102	4.5	20	Oregon St	Pac-12	112	5	65	Wake Forest	Atlantic Coast	99.5	4.5
127	Hawaii	Mountain West	82	5.5	7	Penn St	Big Ten	122.5	5	10	Washington	Pac-12	119	4.5
62	Houston	Big 12	100.5	4.5	62	Pittsburgh	Atlantic Coast	100.5	4.5	40	Washington St	Pac-12	106	4.5
54	Illinois	Big Ten	102.5	4.5	64	Purdue	Big Ten	100	4.5	35	West Virginia	Big 12	107	5
73	Indiana	Big Ten	96.5	4.5	86	Rice	American Athletic	94	2.5	97	W Kentucky	Conference USA	92	4.5
44	Iowa	Big Ten	105	5						121	W Michigan	Mid-American	85	3.5
21	Iowa St	Big 12	111.5	5						46	Wisconsin	Big Ten	104.5	5.5
81	Jacksonville St	Conference USA	95	4.5						80	Wyoming	Mountain West	95.5	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
NFL														
30	Arizona Cardinals	NFC West	93	2.5	17	Houston Texans	AFC South	98	2.5	21	Minnesota Vikings	NFC North	96.5	3
21	Atlanta Falcons	NFC South	96.5	2.5	25	Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	96	3	27	New England Pats	AFC East	95.5	3
3	Baltimore Ravens	AFC North	106.5	3	13	Jacksonville Jaguars	AFC South	99	2.5	13	New Orleans Saints	NFC South	99	3
3	Buffalo Bills	AFC East	106.5	3.5	3	Kansas City Chiefs	AFC West	106.5	3.5	32	N.Y. Giants	NFC East	88	3
31	Carolina Panthers	NFC South	92	2.5	21	Las Vegas Raiders	AFC West	96.5	2.5	19	N.Y. Jets	AFC East	97	2
28	Chicago Bears	NFC North	95	2.5	11	L.A. Chargers	AFC West	99.5	2	7	Philadelphia Eagles	NFC East	105.5	3
13	Cincinnati Bengals	AFC North	99	3	10	L.A. Rams	NFC West	100	2.5	25	Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC North	96	3
21	Cleveland Browns	AFC North	96.5	2.5	3	Miami Dolphins	AFC East	106.5	2.5	1	San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	113	3
2	Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	108	3						11	Seattle Seahawks	NFC West	99.5	3.5
9	Denver Broncos	AFC West	100.5	3						19	Tampa Bay Bucs	NFC South	97	2.5
8	Detroit Lions	NFC North	104	3						16	Tennessee Titans	AFC South	98.5	2.5
18	Green Bay Packers	NFC North	97.5	3						29	Wash Commanders	NFC East	94.5	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
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16				SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 (continued)				FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29							
NEW ORLEANS BOWL				68 VENTURES BOWL				GATOR BOWL							
203	JACKSONVILLE ST 2:15 PM (New Orleans, LA)	3'	3'	229	SOUTH ALABAMA 7:00 PM (Mobile, AL)	15		257	CLEMSON ESPN 12:00 PM (Jacksonville, FL)	7					
204	LOUISIANA ESPN			230	E MICHIGAN ESPN			258	KENTUCKY 3★						
CURE BOWL				LAS VEGAS BOWL				SUN BOWL							
205	MIAMI OHIO 4★ 3:30 PM (Orlando, FL)			231	UTAH ABC 7:30 PM (Las Vegas, NV)	7		259	NOTRE DAME 2:00 PM (El Paso, TX)	10'					
206	APP STATE ABC	4	6'	232	NORTHWESTERN			260	OREGON ST CBS						
NEW MEXICO BOWL				HAWAII BOWL				LIBERTY BOWL							
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'		262	IOWA ST ESPN	7					
LA BOWL Hosted by Gronk				TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26				COTTON BOWL							
209	UCLA 7:30 PM (Inglewood, CA)		6'	QUICK LANE BOWL				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'					
INDEPENDENCE BOWL				FIRST RESPONDER BOWL				PEACH BOWL							
211	CALIFORNIA 9:15 PM (Shreveport, LA)			237	TEXAS ST 5:30 PM (Dallas, TX)	4'		265	OLE MISS 12:00 PM (Atlanta, Ga)						
212	TEXAS TECH ESPN	3	3'	238	RICE ESPN			266	PENN ST ESPN	4					
MYRTLE BEACH BOWL				GUARANTEED RATE BOWL				MUSIC CITY BOWL							
213	GA SOUTHERN 11:00 AM (Conway, SC)		1'	239	KANSAS 9:00 PM (Phoenix, AZ)	11		267	AUBURN 2:00 PM (Nashville, TN)	2'					
214	OHIO ESPN	2'		240	UNLV ESPN			268	MARYLAND ABC						
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18				WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27				ORANGE BOWL							
FAMOUS TOASTERY BOWL				MILITARY BOWL				ARIZONA BOWL							
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						
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19				DUKE'S MAYO BOWL				MONDAY, JANUARY 1							
FRISCO BOWL				HOLIDAY BOWL				RELIAQUEST BOWL							
215	TEX-SAN ANTONIO 9:00 PM (Frisco, TX)	9'	7	243	NORTH CAROLINA 5:30 PM (Charlotte, NC)			271	TOLEDO 4:30 PM (Tucson, AZ)	1'					
216	MARSHALL ESPN			244	W VIRGINIA ESPN	3		272	WYOMING ESPN						
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21				TEXAS BOWL				CITRUS BOWL							
BOCA RATON BOWL				TEXAS A&M ESPN				FIESTA BOWL							
217	SYRACUSE 8:00 PM (Boca Raton, FL)	3'		245	LOUISVILLE 8:00 PM (San Diego, CA)	7'		273	WISCONSIN 12:00 PM (Tampa, FL)						
218	S FLORIDA ESPN			246	USC FOX			274	LSU ESPN2	10					
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22				THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28				ROSE BOWL							
GASPARILLA BOWL				FENWAY BOWL				SUGAR BOWL							
219	C FLORIDA 6:30 PM (Tampa, FL)	4'		247	TEXAS A&M ESPN 9:00 PM (Houston, TX)	3'		275	IOWA 1:00 PM (Orlando, FL)						
220	GA TECH ESPN			248	OKLAHOMA ST			276	TENNESSEE ABC	7'					
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23				FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29				LIBERTY 5★							
BIRMINGHAM BOWL				COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS				OREGON ESPN							
221	DUKE 12:00 PM (Birmingham, AL)			249	SMU ESPN 11:00 AM (Boston, MA)	10'		277	LIBERTY 5★ 1:00 PM (Glendale, AZ)						
222	TROY ABC	6'		250	BOSTON COLL ★			278	OREGON ESPN	17					
CAMELLIA BOWL				PINSTRIPED BOWL				ROSE BOWL							
223	ARKANSAS ST 12:00 PM (Montgomery, AL)			251	RUTGERS 2:15 PM (Bronx, NY)			279	ALABAMA 5:00 PM (Pasadena, CA)						
224	NO ILLINOIS ESPN	Pk		252	MIAMI FL ESPN	3'		280	MICHIGAN ESPN	2					
ARMED FORCES BOWL				POP-TARTS BOWL				SUGAR BOWL							
225	JAMES MADISON 3:30 PM (Fort Worth, TX)	3		253	NC STATE 5:45 PM (Orlando, FL)			281	TEXAS ESPN 8:45 PM (New Orleans, LA)	4					
226	AIR FORCE ABC			254	KANSAS ST ESPN	4'		282	WASHINGTON						
POTATO BOWL				ALAMO BOWL				MONDAY, JANUARY 8							
227	GEORGIA ST 3:30 PM (Boise, ID)	2'		255	ARIZONA 9:15 PM (San Antonio, TX)	3'		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME							
228	UTAH ST ESPN			256	OKLAHOMA ESPN			287	7:30 PM (Houston, TX)						
								288	ESPN						

THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS

A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT
STAR-RATED BEST BET SELECTIONS

FOR WEEK ENDING MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023		3★ BEST BET	4★ BEST BET	5★ BEST BET
	NFL	RAMS	DOLPHINS	STEELERS
	UPSET GAME	TITANS	SUBSCRIBE TO PLAYBOOK TODAY: 800.752.9266	
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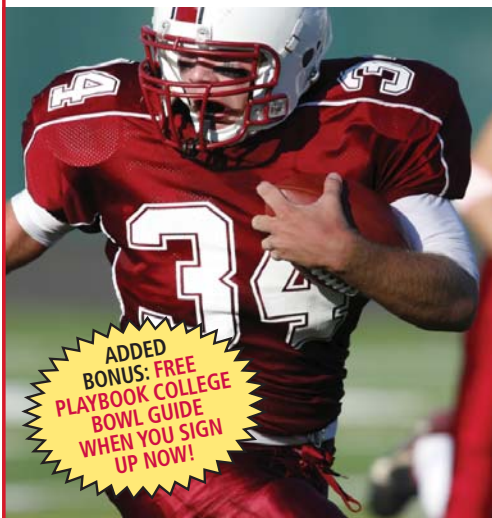
2023 PRO FOOTBALL - DECEMBER 21-25

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
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21				459	GREEN BAY 1:00 PM CAROLINA FOX	3'	8	473	ARIZONA 4:25 PM CHICAGO FOX		
451	NEW ORLEANS 8:15 PM LA RAMS ★ PRIME	3'	13	461	CLEVELAND 1:00 PM HOUSTON CBS	2'	3	474	NEW ENGLAND 8:15 PM DENVER NFL	3'	1
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23				463	SEATTLE 1:00 PM TENNESSEE ★ CBS	2'		MONDAY, DECEMBER 25			
453	CINCINNATI NBC 4:30 PM PITTSBURGH ★	1'		464	WASHINGTON 1:00 PM NY JETS CBS		3	477	LAS VEGAS 1:00 PM KANSAS CITY CBS	10	14
454	BUFFALO Peacock 8:00 PM LA CHARGERS	14	6	465	DETROIT 1:00 PM MINNESOTA FOX	3'		478	NY GIANTS FOX 4:30 PM PHILADELPHIA	10'	16
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24				466	JACKSONVILLE 4:05 PM TAMPA BAY CBS	2'	4	479	BALTIMORE ABC 8:15 PM SAN FRANCISCO	5	3
455	INDIANAPOLIS 1:00 PM ATLANTA FOX	2	6	467	DALLAS 4:25 PM MIAMI ★ FOX	2	13	HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MARC LAWRENCE AND THE ENTIRE PLAYBOOK STAFF!			
456				468							

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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!**