

Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter

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Dennis Stagliano's Gridiron Gold Sheet
An Award Winning Football Newsletter Since 1981



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Wheels Came Off The Boomer Schooner 2 Straight Weeks

THE SOONERS WHEELS FELL OFF AS KANSAS ST TOOK THE SOONERS OFF THE ROAD TO THE FINAL 4

BIG 12

-- Of course, the big story of the week was the win by Kansas State over Oklahoma, 48-41. The Boomer Schooner crashed two weeks ago and the Sooners playoff hopes crashed last week after a huge upset loss to Kansas St. The Wildcats improved to 5-3 SU/ATS, and tossed a monkey wrench into the CFP picture, allowing plenty of teams to shoehorn back into the conversation. The Texas memes and snipes at Tom Herman were spreading like wildfire in the Twittersverse following their 37-27 loss at TCU. The Longhorns barely scraped by last week, and suddenly they're 5-3 SU and just 2-3 ATS over the past five outings. ... Texas Tech went to Kansas and lost in one of the strangest ways possible. In the closing seconds, Kansas lined up for the game-winning field goal. They had it blocked, and the Red Raiders attempted to return it. They subsequently fumbled, Kansas got the ball back with just :01 left on the clock, getting another chance at the field goal. They buried it this time, and won 37-34 to move to 3-5 SU. Suddenly it's en vogue to back the Jayhawks, too, as they're a perfect 3-0 ATS over the past three with the 'over' 5-1 in the past six. ... Oklahoma State posted a 34-27 win on the road as 11-point underdogs against Iowa State. The Cowboys slapped the brakes on a two-game skid, and 0-2 ATS run, improving to 5-3 SU/6-2 ATS. ...

AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (AAC)

-- SMU stayed unbeaten with a 34-31 victory Thursday night at Houston. The Mustangs entered with a 7-0 record on the 'over', but this game officially pushed at most shops. They're still 8-0 SU, and they will face off against Memphis in a nationally-televised game on ABC at 7:30 p.m. ET. ... The Tigers almost made ABC's decision look like a bad one, as Tulsa had them on the ropes. The Golden Hurricanes were set up for the short, game-winning field goal and the upset as 9.5-point underdogs. However, the kicked shanked it left and disaster was averted for Memphis. Tulsa is 2-6 SU this season, but they've had several near-misses, including their OT loss at SMU after carrying a big lead into the fourth quarter. While they're on a four-game skid, they're 3-1 ATS during the span with the 'over' 3-1. ... South Florida rolled to a 45-20 win at East Carolina, as the Bulls have turned things around after a 1-3 SU/2-2 ATS start. They're 3-1 SU/ATS over the past four, and now just two wins from bowl eligibility. The 'over' is 4-1-1 in the past six for USF, too.

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE (ACC)

-- North Carolina held off rival Duke, getting an interception at the goal line in the final few seconds at Kenan. Officially the 20-17 decision was a push at most shops. ... Miami-Florida picked up the road win at Pittsburgh by a

16-12, keeping Coastal chaos alive and well. The Hurricanes were without their leading rusher RB DeeJay Dallas, and QB N'Kosi Perry wasn't close to 100 percent, but they got the win. Miami is 4-4 SU/ATS and the 'over/under' is 4-4. In other words, they're one of the hardest teams to figure. ... Virginia opened the season with a 4-0 SU/2-1-1 ATS record, but they are just 1-3 SU over their past four and 1-4 ATS across the past five outings. Louisville topped them 28-21, keeping the Cavaliers from attaining bowl eligibility. The Cardinals are now 5-3 SU/ATS so far. ... Remember when everyone thought Clemson was done, or not one of the best teams in the country? They spanked Boston College by a 59-7 score, covering the largest spread in a BCS game this week, -35. The Tigers hit the 'over' themselves, too. Clemson has covered three in a row, and five of the past six.

BIG TEN

-- It was a sloppy day all over in the Big Ten, with torrential rains in games in Ann Arbor, East Lansing and West Lafayette, among others. You have to love the fall and real football weather. Illinois continues to surprise, winning 24-6 on the road at Purdue, following up their surprising win over Wisconsin last week. The Illini are 4-4 SU, and they have covered three in a row. ... Minnesota posted the impressive 52-10 win over Maryland, improve to 8-0 SU for the first time since 1941. After starting out 0-2-1 ATS, the Golden Gophers have covered their past five in a row. All eyes are on their matchup with Penn State in two weeks. ... Speaking of the Nittany Lions, they battled the rain and slop, turning aside Michigan State by a 28-7 score. Surprisingly, this game nearly hit or at least pushed the total (42), but a scoreless fourth quarter splashed cold water on that, pun totally intended. ... Michigan annihilated rival Notre Dame in a driving rain for a good chunk of Saturday's game, winning 45-14. It is the last scheduled battle between these rivals until 2033. ... Last, but certainly not least, Ohio State steamrolled Wisconsin by a 38-7 count. The Badgers entered the day having yielded just 29 points in the first six games, but now they have allowed 62 total points in the past two weeks, losing consecutive games for the first time since 2016. Meanwhile, the Buckeyes have won eight in a row to start, and they haven't allowed anyone to score more than two times in a game single since the opener against FAU of all teams. Ohio St has covered seven in a row since a game against Kiffin's Owls, too.

CONFERENCE USA

-- Florida Atlantic atoned for a loss last week by going to Old Dominion and throttling the Monarchs, 41-3. The Owls have now posted a 5-3 SU/ATS record, and they haven't failed to cover in back-to-back game this season. The Owls did lose their leading passer, QB Brian Robinson, and leading rusher, RB Malcolm Davidson, so that's something to watch going forward. ... Next up for FAU is a battle with Western Kentucky, a team which fell 26-23 at Marshall. Despite the loss, the Hilltoppers picked up their fifth consecutive cover. ... Middle Tennessee posted a surprising 50-17 victory against Florida International, snapping a three-game winning streak for the Golden Panthers.

MID-AMERICAN (MAC)

-- Western Michigan topped Bowling Green by a 49-10 count, easily covering a 27-point number. Under bettors weren't happy with this result. ... Kent State fell at home to Miami-Ohio by a 23-16 score, as the Redhawks have won and covered consecutive games this season, and they're also 3-1 SU/ATS across the past four. ... Akron was blasted yet again, falling 49-0 at Northern Illinois. The Zips are now 0-8 SU/ATS on the season, the only team in FBS yet to cover this season. ... Buffalo topped Central Michigan by a 43-20 count as the 'over' connected. The Bulls have covered three in a row, too. ... Eastern Michigan slipped in overtime at Toledo, 37-34. The Eagles are now just 1-4 ATS across the past five outings.

MOUNTAIN WEST

-- San Diego State isn't wowing people with big offensive totals, but they keep on winning. They topped UNLV by a 20-17 score, moving to 7-1 SU/5-3 ATS with the 'under' also 7-1. ... San Jose State headed east and won another game on the road. They topped Arkansas earlier this season, and this weekend they stunned Army, 34-29. The Spartans are 4-4 SU this season, and an impressive 4-1-1 ATS over the past six outings. ... Air Force picked up a 31-7 win over Utah State, running the ball down their throats. The Falcons have won and covered a season-high three in a row heading into their non-conference rivalry game with Army next week. ... Hawaii returned to the mainland and picked up the 45-31 victory in New Mexico. The Warriors improved to 5-3 SU and 4-4 ATS. The 'over' has cashed in each of the past three for Hawaii.

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PAC-12

-- The best game of the day was easily the Washington State-Oregon battle in Eugene. It was a seesaw battle that lasted four hours and some change. Wazzu took a 35-34 lead with exactly one minute remaining, but QB Justin Herbert drove the Ducks down the field for the game-winning field goal as time expired, keeping the playoff hopes alive for the Ducks and the Pac-12. ... USC escaped with a 35-31 win at Colorado. The banged up Trojans earned the four-point win, their first on the road this season. They're also 1-3 ATS away from home. ... UCLA pulled off the 42-32 win over Arizona State, and they technically can still go to the conference title game if they win out. The Bruins have won and covered consecutive games for the first time this season, and the 'over' is 3-0 in the past three outings.

SOUTHEASTERN (SEC)

-- LSU held off Auburn by a 23-20 score. The Tigers have a huge battle at Alabama on Nov. 9. ... Speaking of 'Bama, it was no Tua and no problem for the Crimson Tide. They topped lowly Arkansas by a 48-7 score even without star signal caller Tua Tagovailoa (ankle). The Tide are 8-0 SU, but just 4-4 ATS this season and they have yet to cover in consecutive outings. ... Kentucky surprised Missouri in Lexington by a 29-7 count. The Tigers were in first place in the SEC East at one point, but they have dropped two in a row and failed to cover the past three. ... Tennessee topped South Carolina by a 41-21 score, covering for the third consecutive outing. The Vols have had a disastrous season, but they're 3-5 SU and still technically alive for a bowl berth if they can win three of the final four against UAB, Kentucky, Missouri and Vanderbilt.

SUN BELT

-- Georgia Southern topped New Mexico State 41-7, as total bettors were feeling some fourth-quarter pain in this one. ... Georgia State managed an impressive 52-33 win over Troy, moving to 6-2 SU and 5-1-2 ATS. The Panthers are now bowl eligible, too. ... Appalachian State earned the 30-3 win at South Alabama, keeping their hopes alive for that New Year's Day bowl game. The 'under' has cashed in three in a row for the Mountaineers, but they're four-game cover streak came to a close, just barely - by a half-point.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BETS

APPALACHIAN STATE - 16 Over Georgia Southern by 24

This matchup at Kidd Brewer Stadium in Boone, NC pairs two teams with winning record's together. The Georgia Southern Eagles who are (4-3) on the season will play the host Appalachian State Mountaineers who is (7-0) on the season and ranked 20th. The Eagles enter this road contest on a 3 game winning streak. Most recently the Eagles beat New Mexico State 41-7. The Mountaineers ride their 7 game win streak into this home matchup. The Mountaineers won at South Alabama 30-3 this past weekend.

Georgia Southern who is a run first team lived up to that expectation, the Eagles attempted 4 passes in the win over New Mexico State. The Eagles rushed for over 400 yds on 56 carries and 4 scores. J.D. King and Wesley Kennedy III each had 143 yds rushing in the game and both had 2 touchdowns. The Eagles rank 15th in rushing yds per game, averaging 237. The Eagles are giving up an average of 30 points per game on defense. On the season, quarterback Shai Werts has completed 22 of 44 passes for 179 yds and 2 touchdowns. The Eagles have 1,819 yds rushing on the season.

Appalachian State improved to (4-0) in conference play in the win over South Alabama. Mountaineers quarterback Zac Thomas was 16/28 for 132 yds and a touchdown in the win. The Mountaineers had 313 yds rushing as a team. Leading the way was Marcus Williams Jr. with 11 carries, 94 yds, and a touchdown. Raykwon Anderson had 99 yds on 4 carries, with a long of 67 yds and a touchdown. Thomas Hennigan added 6 receptions, 58 yds, and a touchdown. The Mountaineers have one of the higher scoring offense's in the country, averaging almost 41 points per contest. The Mountaineers are averaging 238 rushing yds per game, which ranks 14th in the country.

This game is going to come down to which team can limit the damage done on the ground. Both teams like to rush the ball, the only difference is, App. State can pass when needed. App. State is not afraid to pass the ball, while Georgia Southern is a strictly rushing team. The Eagles rush the ball on just about 82% of their plays from scrimmage. App. State has been profitable at home this year ATS going 5-2 and Southern is 2-6 ATS in their last 8 games.

Looking at how they fared against common opponents, they both played South Alabama and ULL. Southern lost to ULL at home 24-37 and won at South Alabama 20-17. App St won at ULL 17-7 and beat South Alabama on the road 30-3. If App. State makes an adjustment to stop the run, they should be able to win and cover the spread at home in prime time.

Projected Score: Appalachian St 38, Georgia Southern 14 This game is Thursday night.

BAYLOR - 17½ Over West Virginia by 30

The West Virginia Mountaineers hits the road for a Big 12 contest with the Baylor Bears. The Mountaineers enter the game looking to get back to 500 on the season. The Mountaineers sit at (3-4) on the season. West Virginia has lost 3 in a row and most recently lost at Oklahoma 52-14. Baylor enters this home contest with a perfect record of (7-0) and rank 12th in the latest standings. Baylor won at Oklahoma State in their last game, 45-27.

In the loss to Oklahoma, West Virginia quarterback Austin Kendall was 15/31 for 182 yds and 2 TD's. T.J. Simmons had 6 receptions, 74 yds, and had both touchdowns in the game. The Mountaineers were only able to manage 51 yds rushing on 30 carries. West Virginia was out gained by Oklahoma 560-242 in the game. West Virginia ranks near the bottom(120th) in points allowed per game at 36.8. Offensively the Mountaineers are averaging 23 points per game.

Baylor was able to find success on the ground in the win over Oklahoma State. Running back JaMycal Hasty rushed for 146 yds on 16 carries and 2 touchdowns. As a team the Bears rushed for 224 yds on 37 carries and 4 scores. Josh Fleeks added 3 receptions for 126 yds and a score in the win. Baylor quarterback Corey Brewer was 13/17 for 312 yds and a touchdown. Brewer also had 1 of the 4 rushing scores in the game. Baylor has been one of the better defenses on the year, holding opponents to 19.5 points per game. Offensively, the Bears are averaging 36 points per game. Baylor ranks in the top 20 in both those categories.

In the recent meeting's, West Virginia was able to get back to back wins over Baylor. Those wins had a lot to do with quarterback Will Grier, who is now in the NFL. West Virginia is 5-2 against Baylor in the last 7 games. This Baylor team is a lot better then previous years and also won't have to worry about Grier in this matchup. West Virginia is in the midst of a 3 game losing streak, having lost by at least 11 points in all 3 games. Baylor is at home with a perfect 7-0 record on the season, look for Baylor to come out ready for revenge and to give West Virginia some whoop ass in Waco.

Projected Score: Baylor 44, West Virginia 14 This game is Thursday night.

Navy - 26 Over UCONN by 37

Connecticut (2-6, 0-4 AAC), has been one of the worst teams in the FBS this season and is riding a 15 game losing streak in the AAC. How bad has UConn been? Its two wins were a 24-21 victory over FCS Wagner, which is 1-7 on the season and is ranked 109th out of 124 FCS in the FCS Simple Rankings System, and a 56-35 trouncing of UMass, which has only held lowly Akron under 44 points this season and is the worst team in FBS this season in scoring defense, allowing a whopping 50.6 points per game. But UConn hasn't been much better. It is ranked 127th out of 130 FBS teams giving up 37.8 points per game.

The worst thing for UConn is that its offense isn't much better, ranking 117th in FBS in scoring offense at just 21.6 points per game. But that average hasn't come from some wildly high and low scoring numbers combining to end up at 21.6 points per game. In fact, aside from the 56 points last week, and the 3 and 7 points scored against Indiana and Tulane respectively, the Huskies have scored between 17 and 24 points in each of their other five games. Some of those totals came against some respectable schools as well, such as Illinois and Central Florida.

The key stat for UConn is whether it can run the football. The Huskies have won two games, and in both of those games, they have had more rushing yards than passing. To get the ball moving on the ground, UConn will need to see junior Kevin Mensah get rolling like he did last week in the win over UMass. Mensah rushed for 164 yards and five touchdowns on 19 carries to go along with fifth-year senior Art Thompkins' 135 yards on 13 carries and a score. If UConn can get the ball rolling on the ground, it has a chance.

Speaking of running the football, Navy leads the nation in rushing offense at more than 350 yards on the ground per game and the Midshipmen are led by senior quarterback Malcolm Perry who runs for 133 yards per game. Perry has really started rolling in the rushing attack the last three games, though, averaging 182.3 yards per game in that stretch, including a 218-yard, three-TD performances against Tulsa. Bad news, UConn: It ranks 102nd in rushing D.

Last week, Navy led Tulane 24-0 but needed a late field goal to wrap up a 41-38 win. After Tulane scored with 1:01 remaining in the game, Perry put the Midshipmen within field goal range running the ball five times for 44 yards. Bijan Nichols kicked the 48-yarder, one yard shy of a career high, and Navy pulled out the win. This is not a game to overthink. Navy runs the ball better than anyone in FBS. UConn doesn't stop the run. UConn has been blown out this year by the likes of Indiana, Central Florida, South Florida, and Tulane -- that's right, the same Tulane team that Navy edged last week beat UConn 49-7 three weeks ago. There is only one pick here: Navy. Watch that triple option get rolling and it's unlikely that UConn will stop it.

Projected Score: Navy 47, UConn 10. This game is Friday night.

NOTRE DAME - 17.5 Over Virginia Tech by 28

Virginia Tech is coming into this game with a 5-2 record on the year and are off a bye week. That week was definitely needed as the week before that the North Carolina team ended up taking the Hokies to 6 OT's before the Hokies finally ended up winning.

When it comes to the offense the Hokies have scored at a clip of 30 points per game. The Hokies have thrown the ball for 220 yards a game, but have ran the ball for 175 yards a game. Defensively the Hokies are giving up 29.6 points a game on the year. The Hokies have allowed 251 yards a game in the air and allowed 145 yards a game on the ground.

Notre Dame is heading into the game here with a 5-2 record. However, the Fighting Irish were completely crushed by the Wolverines. The game ended up being 45-14 and was very disappointing in bad weather for the Irish who could not get going offensively and left the defense on the field for far too long to be any good.

The Irish on the year have been able to score 35.6 points a game. The Irish have thrown the ball for 244 yards a game, but have managed to run the ball for 168 yards a game. The defense for the Irish is giving up 20.9 points a game. The Irish have allowed only 186 yards a game in the air and 173 yards a game on the ground.

Quarterback Ian Book has been a major reason for Notre Dame's offensive success this fall, throwing for 1,492-yards and 15 touchdowns. He has thrown just two interceptions to date. Tailback Troy Jones Jr. leads the Fighting Irish's ground attack with 571-yards and four scores. Jones will be limited this week in practice (ribs), according to Notre Dame head coach Brian Kelly, but he is expected to play against the Hokies.

Virginia Tech quarterback Hendon Hooker, who is 3-0 as a starter after taking over for Ryan Willis suffered a knee injury during Virginia Tech's victory over North Carolina. Hooker has completed 57.4-percent of his passes, throwing for 580-yards and seven touchdowns. Extent of his the knee injury is unknown at this time. Notre Dame was really impressive in how well the Irish bounced back after the last loss the team had. Look for the Irish to come into this game and get a big win, as the Hokies struggle in the game against the Irish defense.

Projected Score: Notre Dame 41, Virginia Tech 13

WESTERN KENTUCKY - 2.5 Over Florida Atlantic by 11

On Saturday, the Florida Atlantic Owls visit L.T. Smith Stadium in Bowling Green, Kentucky to play the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers. The Owls improved to 5-3 on the season following a 41-3 win over Old Dominion on Saturday. Chris Robison led the Owls attack with two passes for touchdowns. FAU is 3-1 in Conference-USA play good for second place behind Western Kentucky.

Chris Robison leads the FAU Owls in passing with 2,131 yards, 15 touchdowns and four interceptions. The leading rusher for the Owls is Malcolm Davidson with 364 yards and five touchdowns. Harrison Bryant leads all FAU receivers with 577 yards and one touchdown. Rashad Smith leads the Owls in tackles with 56.

Western Kentucky fell to 5-3 overall and 4-1 in C-USA play following a 26-23 loss to Marshall on Saturday. The Hilltoppers lost when Marshall kicked a 53-yard field as time expired. Western Kentucky tied the score in the second half with scores on three straight drives before the Marshall field goal. Ty Storey threw for 292 yards and rushed for one touchdown in the loss.

Ty Storey leads the Hilltoppers with 1,097 yards passing, five touchdowns and two interceptions. Gaej Walker leads Western Kentucky in rushing with 730 yards and six touchdowns. Lucky Jackson is the leading receiver with 573 yards and one touchdown. The leading tackler for Western Kentucky is Kyle Bailey with 66.

FAU has dominated this matchup of late and look for that trend to be broken. The Owls have covered the number in 4 of the last 5 played in Kentucky and 5 of the last 6 overall between the two Conference-USA rivals. FAU is coming off a huge win over Old Dominion. But note that the second half production was quite different than the first half. The difference was the product of the Owls losing running back Malcolm Davidson and quarterback Chris Robison within three plays of a scoring drive as time in the second quarter dwindled. To say the offense was significantly less effective would be an overstatement. Nick Tronti, Robison's backup, and James Charles, a somewhat forgotten back, took over in finishing off FAU's 41-3 win at Old Dominion. The win put the Owls back on the path of the Conference USA East title against Western Kentucky this week.

The extent of Robison's and Davidson's injuries could determine the fate of the Owls. We're surmising that they are banged up pretty good and if they do play, they will not be at 100%. They're weakened which sets up a revenge opportunity for the Hilltoppers. Western Kentucky is 5-0 ATS in its last 5 and makes it 6-0 ATS this week.

Projected Score: Western Kentucky 28, FAU 17

GRIDIRON GOLD COLLEGE FOOTBALL ROTATION LINE SHEET OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 2, 2019

Date/ ET	Rot	Game Line Sheet	Line	Date/ ET	Rot	Game Line Sheet	Line
10/31/19	303	Georgia Southern	47.5	11/02/19	375	UTEP	57
8:00 ET	304	Appalachian State	-18	3:30 ET	376	North Texas	-23
10/31/19	305	West Virginia	56	11/02/19	381	Middle Tennessee St.	-2.5
8:00 ET	306	Baylor	-17.5	3:30 ET	382	UNC Charlotte	60
11/01/19	307	Navy	-26	11/02/19	385	Arkansas State	-1.5
8:00 ET	308	Connecticut	52	3:30 ET	386	Louisiana-Monroe	68.5
11/02/19	309	North Carolina State	59.5	11/02/19	387	Miami (FL)	49.5
12:00 ET	310	Wake Forest	-8.5	3:30 ET	388	Florida State	-5.5
11/02/19	311	Liberty	-21.5	11/02/19	317	Pittsburgh	-9
12:00 ET	312	Massachusetts	67	4:00 ET	318	Georgia Tech	46
11/02/19	313	Old Dominion	48	11/02/19	377	Tulsa	63
12:00 ET	314	Florida Intl	-15.5	4:00 ET	378	Tulane	-10
11/02/19	319	Nebraska	-3	11/02/19	379	Mississippi State	-7
12:00 ET	320	Purdue	54	4:00 ET	380	Arkansas	56
11/02/19	321	Houston	70	11/02/19	383	Florida Atlantic	50.5
12:00 ET	322	Central Florida	-23.5	4:00 ET	384	Western Kentucky	-2.5
11/02/19	323	Michigan	-17.5	11/02/19	391	Utah	-2.5
12:00 ET	324	Maryland	56	4:00 ET	392	Washington	47.5
11/02/19	333	Boston College	58.5	11/02/19	365	Oregon State	73
12:00 ET	334	Syracuse	-2.5	4:30 ET	366	Arizona	-7
11/02/19	335	Buffalo	47.5	11/02/19	349	Texas State	57.5
12:00 ET	336	Eastern Michigan	PK	5:00 ET	350	Louisiana-Lafayette	-22.5
11/02/19	353	Northern Illinois	49	11/02/19	325	Northwestern	45.5
12:00 ET	354	Central Michigan	-1	7:00 ET	326	Indiana	-12.5
11/02/19	361	Texas-San Antonio	52.5	11/02/19	331	Cincinnati	-21
12:00 ET	362	Texas AM	-38	7:00 ET	332	East Carolina	47.5
11/02/19	327	Akron	48.5	11/02/19	367	UAB	47.5
2:00 ET	328	Bowling Green State	-6	7:00 ET	368	Tennessee	-12
11/02/19	341	Virginia Tech	58	11/02/19	369	Mississippi	54.5
2:30 ET	342	Notre Dame	-18	7:00 ET	370	Auburn	-17.5
11/02/19	315	Troy	60	11/02/19	337	Virginia	46.5
3:00 ET	316	Coastal Carolina	PK	7:30 ET	338	North Carolina	PK
11/02/19	329	Rutgers	49	11/02/19	351	Vanderbilt	52
3:30 ET	330	Illinois	-20	7:30 ET	352	South Carolina	-15
11/02/19	347	Kansas State	-6	11/02/19	359	Southern Methodist	68.5
3:30 ET	348	Kansas	57.5	7:30 ET	360	Memphis	-3.5
11/02/19	355	Marshall	-10	11/02/19	343	Oregon	-6
3:30 ET	356	Rice	46.5	8:00 ET	344	Southern Cal	60.5
11/02/19	357	UNLV	61	11/02/19	345	Colorado	64
3:30 ET	358	Colorado State	-10	9:00 ET	346	UCLA	-5.5
11/02/19	363	Army	45	11/02/19	339	BYU	53
3:30 ET	364	Air Force	-15	10:00 ET	340	Utah State	-6
11/02/19	371	Georgia	-4	11/02/19	389	New Mexico	56
3:30 ET	372	Florida	48	10:30 ET	390	Nevada	-5.5
11/02/19	373	Texas Christian	63	11/02/19	393	Boise State	-17
3:30 ET	374	Oklahoma State	-5	10:30 ET	394	San Jose State	61

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GRIDIRON GOLD COLLEGE FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS											
TEAM	GPR	HF	TEAM	GPR	HF	TEAM	GPR	HF	TEAM	GPR	HF
AIR FORCE	26	3	FRESNO ST	31	4	MISSISSIPPI ST	31	3	SO. MISS U	34	3
AKRON	66	2	GEORGIA	10	3	MISSOURI	54	4	STANFORD	34	3
ALABAMA	1	3	GA SOUTHERN	39	3	NAVY	27	3	SYRACUSE	35	3
APP ST	26	3	GEORGIA ST	39	3	NEBRASKA	31	3	T.C.U.	29	3
ARIZONA	33	3	GEORGIA T	42	3	NEVADA	43	2	TEMPLE	30	2
ARIZONA ST	29	3	HAWAII	36	4	NEW MEXICO	50	1	TENNESSEE	32	3
ARKANSAS	41	2	HOUSTON	35	2	NEW MEXICO ST	56	2	TEXAS	30	4
ARKANSAS ST	42	3	ILLINOIS	35	3	NO. CAROLINA	28	3	TEXAS A&M	22	3
ARMY	35	2	INDIANA	29	3	NO CARO ST.	33	2	TEXAS ST	52	2
AUBURN	13	4	IOWA	26	4	NORTH TEXAS	37	3	TEXAS TECH	31	3
BALL ST	38	2	IOWA ST	20	4	NO. ILLINOIS	44	3	TOLEDO	41	2
BAYLOR	24	3	KANSAS	37	2	N'WESTERN	36	3	TROY	37	3
BOISE ST	27	4	KANSAS ST	31	3	NOTRE DAME	18	3	TULANE	28	3
BOSTON C.	29	2	KENT ST.	46	3	OHIO	39	2	TULSA	38	2
B. GREEN	56	2	KENTUCKY	32	3	OHIO ST.	1	4	U.A.B.	34	3
BUFFALO	40	3	LA LAFAYETTE	29	2	OKLAHOMA	6	4	U.C.F.	18	3
B.Y.U.	34	2	LA MONROE	41	3	OKLAHOMA ST	29	3	U.C.L.A.	34	2
CALIFORNIA	30	3	LIBERTY	46	3	OLD DOMINION	49	2	U.N.L.V.	47	2
C MICHIGAN	40	3	LA TECH	33	2	OREGON	12	3	UTAH	17	3
CHARLOTTE	45	3	LOUISVILLE	31	3	OREGON ST	34	3	UTAH ST	29	3
CINCINNATI	23	2	L.S.U.	3	4	PENN ST	14	4	U.T.E.P.	56	1
CLEMSON	0	3	MARSHALL	33	3	PITTSBURGH	24	3	U.T.S.A.	52	2
C. CAROLINA	42	2	MARYLAND	38	3	PURDUE	33	3	VANDERBILT	42	2
COLORADO	39	4	MASS. U.	68	2	RICE	49	2	VIRGINIA	26	3
COLORADO ST	44	2	MEMPHIS	25	3	RUTGERS	59	2	VIRGINIA TECH	30	3
CONNECTICUT	57	2	MIAMI	32	3	SAN DIEGO ST	31	2	WAKE FOREST	27	3
DUKE	29	2	MIAMI OHIO	47	3	SAN JOSE ST	43	3	WASHINGTON	20	3
E CAROLINA	44	2	MICHIGAN	19	3	S.M.U.	43	3	WASH ST.	24	4
E MICHIGAN	42	3	MICHIGAN ST	28	3	SO. ALABAMA	52	2	W VIRGINIA	37	3
FLORIDA	15	3	MID TENN ST	41	3	SO. CAROLINA	26	3	W KENTUCKY	32	2
FLA ATLANTIC	35	3	MINNESOTA	24	3	SO. FLORIDA	42	3	W MICHIGAN	36	3
FLA INT'L	36	3	MISSISSIPPI	30	2	SO. CALIFORNIA	25	4	WISCONSIN	17	4
FLORIDA ST	28	2							WYOMING	34	3

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A Brees and a nice thumbs up

NFL BEST BETS ON A NICE WIN STREAK HEADING INTO THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON

NFL Football Recap

-- The Los Angeles Chargers (+3.5, ML +165) finally won one of those close games, taking advantage of the kicking woes of the Chicago Bears, 17-16. PK Eddy Pineiro was the hero earlier this season, sinking the Denver Broncos on a kick at the buzzer in the Mile High City. The Bears thought they had found their guy after years of ugly kicking performances, lowlighted by the playoff meltdown of Cody Parkey.

The Bolts have had their shortcomings, too, especially in close games. It's cliché to say it, but football, in particular professional football, really is a game of inches. The Chargers found that out last week when they were stuffed at the 1-yard line, fumbling away a win on the road against the Tennessee Titans, much to the dismay of Chargers bettors holding a +2 ticket. The week before they were beaten by one score by an undrafted rookie QB. The week before that, they lost by one score. In Week 3, they lost by one score. In Week 2, they lost by a field goal. In week 1, they won in overtime by one score. Unfortunately for the Bolts, they won just two of the first seven games, so they really needed this, and they were facing a team in the exact same boat. They finally found an opponent with worse luck than they have.

For the Chargers, not only are close games inevitable, but low-scoring games are inevitable, too. The 'under' is 6-1 across the past seven, and last week's 'over' hit by just a half-point, although they should have had a touchdown in the closing moments.

-- The Los Angeles Rams (-11.5) weren't feeling sorry for the Cincinnati Bengals, and they weren't about to play down to the competition. They won and covered 24-10, although the offense was a bit sluggish at times. Still, the defense showed up and kept the Bengals winless at 0-8. Cincinnati hits the halfway point with a goose egg in the win column while allowing 21 or more points in each game. They're just 3-5 ATS, failing to cover in back-to-back games all season. The 'under' is also 5-2-1 so far for Cincinnati, who will join the Rams in a bye in Week 9 after the trip back overseas.

-- The highest total on the board was the Oakland Raiders-Houston Texans (52.5) battle, and it was a close call. One decision might have changed everything. Down 21-13, the Texans scored a touchdown early in the fourth quarter. Instead of going for two, head coach Bill O'Brien elected to kick the extra point. With plenty of time on the clock, it was probably the correct decision, but for bettors it changes things. Perhaps it didn't. We'll never know now. The game ended up 27-24, and just 'under'.

The second-highest total was the New York Giants-Detroit Lions (49.5) battle, and if you were holding a Lions (-6) ticket, it was a bad beat. RB Saquon Barkley gave Giants bettors (+6) and fantasy owners a gift touchdown with 1:19 to go in regulation, needing an onside kick for a chance at a win. That didn't happen, as it hardly ever does now, but the game was already well 'over' before that late score.

The next highest totals were the Seattle Seahawks-Atlanta Falcons (49) and Arizona Cardinals-New Orleans Saints (48.5) games. The Falcons were driving down the field, down 27-17, and needing two scores late, they elected to take the field goal first, then try to get the onside kick (again, you know how that works out) and go get the touchdown. 'Over' bettors, and those holding Seattle (-7.5) tickets were screaming "NO!!!" in unison, but a PK Matt Bryant field goal was made and the onside kick wasn't...

In the Saints game, people were concerned that QB Drew Brees (thumb) returning for the first time since Week 2 would upset things, maybe make the offense a bit rusty. He was just fine. It was the Cardinals who looked like they've been off for weeks after the 31-9 loss.

-- On the flip side, the lowest total on the board was the Philadelphia Eagles-Buffalo Bills (39) game. Buffalo was the last team to see an 'over' result, hitting the 'under' in each of their first five. Now, they're on an 'over' streak in the past two outings. The New York Jets-Jacksonville Jaguars (40) game also went over by four points, and in the Carolina Panthers-San Francisco 49ers (40.5) game saw the over taken care of by the home team all by themselves, 51-13.

-- The 'over/under' split 1-1 in the first two primetime games of Week 8, with the Monday Night Football contest between the Miami Dolphins-Pittsburgh Steelers (43) still to be played. The 'over' is just 6-18 (25.0%) during the 2019 primetime schedule, a stark change from previous seasons when the games under the lights were high-scoring affairs. The 'under' was a perfect 8-0 for Sunday Night Football this season, but the Green Bay Packers-Kansas City Chiefs (48) game finally

was a SNF game with an over - barely - 31-24.

Major Injury

-- There was really only one 'major' injury, but it's a big one for a contender. Texans DE J.J. Watt (pectoral) left Sunday's game against the Raiders, and he immediately went to the hospital. He tweeted out Sunday night indicating his season is over, and sources said has a torn pec. Not good.

Vikings 19, Redskins 9

The Vikings prevailed to improve their record to 6-2, but they're very fortunate that their former quarterback, Case Keenum, suffered a concussion just prior to halftime. Keenum didn't play at all in the second half, and the Redskins couldn't move the chains whatsoever with the inept Dwayne Haskins. While Keenum put some drives together and accumulated 147 net yards of offense, the Redskins were a three-and-out machine under Haskins, logging only 58 net yards of offense. The Redskins would've had a chance to pull the huge upset because the Minnesota offense constantly killed itself with penalties, scoring fewer than 20 points as a result despite battling a defense that lost a couple of starters in the secondary to injury (Quinton Dunbar, Montae Nicholson). It seemed as though every time the Vikings had a big play, it was being called back by a penalty. They had seven infractions for 74 yards compared to 4-46 for Washington. Meanwhile, Kirk Cousins made some mistakes as well. He had a nice completion percentage - 23-of-26 for 285 yards - but he took several poor sacks because he held on to the ball too long. Cousins looked lost at times without Adam Thielen. He torched the Lions last week, but wasn't nearly as sharp in this contest. Still, Cousins made enough big plays to give the Vikings the victory. He hit deep passes to Stefon Diggs on several occasions, and the talented wideout rewarded him with seven receptions for 143 yards, including a great, toe-tapping grab along the sideline. Diggs' lone blemish was a lost fumble at the end of a long gain on the opening drive. It didn't end up mattering because the Redskins lost a fumble on the ensuing possession. A big chunk of Cousins' yardage came on screens to Dalvin Cook. The talented back was a monster for the Vikings in this contest. He didn't hit the century mark on the ground, but nearly got there with 98 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries. He nearly reached that benchmark as a receiver as well, catching five passes for 73 yards. Meanwhile, Alexander Mattison (13-61) had some nice runs. Remember that some NFL Draft analysts criticized the Vikings for selecting Mattison over Hakeem Butler. Save for Cook and Cousins, barely any other Minnesota players did anything. Olabisi Johnson and Irv Smith Jr. were popularly streamed in the wake of the Thielen injury, but both disappointed. Johnson caught both of his targets for 27 yards, while Smith logged three receptions for 21 yards. No other Minnesota player registered more than 20 receiving yards. Former Vikings running back Adrian Peterson moved into sixth in the all-time career rushing leader list. He showed some burst in this game, as he looked determined to get revenge. Peterson rushed for 76 yards on 14 carries. He was third on Washington's receiving list, catching both of his targets for 27 yards. Keenum, meanwhile, ended up going 12-of-16 for 130 yards in a half of action. He fumbled twice, losing one, but he was terrific otherwise. Minnesota's secondary looked like it had no answer for him or Terry McLaurin, so the Vikings should consider themselves lucky that their former quarterback suffered a concussion and couldn't embarrass them on national TV. It's a shame for Terry McLaurin that Keenum suffered his concussion. McLaurin caught four passes for 39 yards in the first half, but didn't log a single reception with Haskins at the helm. Haskins, by the way, went 3-of-5 for 33 yards and an interception on a high throw.

Colts 15, Broncos 13

It's almost a miracle that the Colts beat the Broncos. Denver controlled time of possession for large chunks of the first three quarters. The Broncos had a 17-play drive in the second frame and then put together another long series. They were just sucking the life out of the game, but they allowed Indianapolis to hang around because of some red zone ineptitude. Joe Flacco's horrible passes deep in Indianapolis territory forced the team to settle for threes instead of sevens. As a result, they led 13-3 in the third quarter instead of 21-3. The two-score margin gave the Colts the hope they needed to mount a comeback. Still, this game appeared to be over when the Broncos had Jacoby Brissett wrapped up in his own end zone for a safety in the final frame, but Brissett found a way out of a sack to hit T.Y. Hilton for a 35-yard gain. Hilton somehow tapped both feet inbounds, and this allowed the Colts to prevail with an Adam Vinatieri field goal, with the future Hall of Famer redeeming himself for a missed extra point earlier in the afternoon. Brissett's volume was down because the Broncos maintained possession for so long. He went 15-of-25 for 202 yards, while scrambling six times for 34 rushing yards. The stats look poor, but Brissett was largely responsible for this victory with his heroic play to somehow avoid a game-losing safety. That said, Brissett made a couple of mistakes. He overshot Hilton on a third down in the third quarter and then lost a fumble in the middle of the final frame while trying to make too much happen. With Brissett not throwing very much, only two Indianapolis players logged more than 35 receiving yards: Jack Doyle (4-61) and Hilton (2-54). Hilton, however, made the catch that counted the most. Marlon Mack scored Indianapolis' sole touchdown. He made a great cut to get into the end zone. He ended up with 76 yards on 19 carries. Denver's runners found their way into the end zone as well, as Royce Freeman (12-40) scored the Broncos' lone touchdown. This was a shame for Phillip Lindsay owners, as Lindsay was once again the more-impressive runner, picking up 59 yards on 14 carries, while catching all five of his targets for 17 receiving yards. Freeman, conversely, dropped a pass on a third down. Flacco was just 20-of-32 for 174 yards. He did a good job of completing short passes in between the 20s, but he was abysmal in the red zone. His poor passes deep in Colts territory were responsible for Denver's latest loss, yet Flacco complained about the coaching staff in the post-game press conference. Flacco had a point about not being aggressive enough, but his awful passes put

the coaching staff in a position for the game to be close in the first place. Courtland Sutton dropped a pass, but bounced back to catch three passes for 72 yards. He also drew two interference flags, one of which was in the end zone. Sutton was the only Denver player with more than 26 receiving yards.

Eagles 31, Bills 13

The team that could establish the run would win this game, as the Eagles and Bills were battling in winds that ranged from 30 to 50 mph. Kicking was impossible - two extra points were missed; one by each team - and throwing deep wasn't an option either. Thus, the superior rushing attack would prevail. That appeared to be Buffalo at first. While Frank Gore couldn't find any running room with Fletcher Cox dominating the line of scrimmage, it was Josh Allen who was killing the Eagles on the ground. Allen had some timely scrambles, and there was one play where Allen rolled out right to avoid pressure and found Cole Beasley for a touchdown. The Eagles seemed to make the appropriate adjustments on Allen, who lost a fumble to give Philadelphia momentum. The Eagles also established a stronger rushing attack themselves. Jordan Howard picked up chunks of yardage at a time, as he helped the Eagles win the time-of-possession battle by about 12 minutes. Carson Wentz also picked up some yards on the ground, while Miles Sanders broke free for a 65-yard touchdown, showcasing his blazing speed. With Philadelphia running so well, the Bills were blown out quite easily following a slow start by Philadelphia. Howard nearly hit the century mark, gaining 96 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries. Sanders didn't have as many opportunities, yet still tallied 74 yards and a score because of his long gain. Sanders also caught three passes for 44 receiving yards. Wentz had pedestrian passing numbers because of the heavy winds, which is why he went just 17-of-24 for 172 yards and a touchdown. However, he still helped his team get the victory with eight scrambles for 35 rushing yards. Wentz's lone touchdown was a short toss to Dallas Goedert (3-22), who once again outgained Zach Ertz (2-20). That said, Ertz drew an interference flag. The only Eagles receiver with more yardage than Sanders was Alshon Jeffery (4-64). As for the Bills, Allen was the team's leading rusher; he scrambled eight times for 45 yards. However, he really struggled as a passer, as he was forced to throw because of the constant second-half deficit. He was just 16-of-34 for 169 yards, two touchdowns and two lost fumbles. Allen fumbled three times in total, but a teammate recovered one of the loose balls. The Buffalo runners didn't have as much success, as Frank Gore was limited to 34 yards on nine carries, while Devin Singletary was given just three attempts, which he turned into 19 yards. Though Singletary had a fumble, which trickled out of bounds, he was the more-explosive player, as he also caught four passes for 30 receiving yards and an impressive touchdown on a broken tackle. The Bills would be foolish to continue limiting Singletary's workload in favor of a decrepit veteran. Just three Buffalo players accumulated more receiving yardage than Singletary: John Brown (5-54), Tyler Kroft (2-32) and Beasley (3-41), who reeled in Allen's first touchdown.

Chargers 17, Bears 16

The FOX announcers in this game said that the Bears were the first team in NFL history to be booed off the field heading into halftime with a lead. I don't know if that's entirely accurate, but the fans were very frustrated with what they saw from their offense. Chicago had three trips inside the Chargers' 10-yard line in the opening half, yet had to settle for three field goals, and that doesn't even include a drive that concluded with a missed 33-yard Eddy Pineiro field goal that doinked off the upright. Both the play-calling and Mitchell Trubisky's passing were dreadful in the red zone. There were weird runs and throws designed for Cordarrelle Patterson, for some reason, and the rushes were telegraphed. Trubisky, meanwhile, missed Allen Robinson for a touchdown when he threw behind him. Trubisky was also nearly intercepted when he heaved a pass into heavy traffic. There was one sequence in which the Chargers gave the Bears a pair of free first downs in the red zone, yet Chicago couldn't get a touchdown. One of the frustrated FOX announcers said, "This offense is just painful to watch." The Bears led just 9-7 in the third quarter despite outgaining the Chargers at that point, 263-119. It looked like a game Chicago would throw away, but the team came out hot in the third quarter. Thanks to a converted fourth-and-1 on a Trubisky throw to Anthony Miller, the Bears moved into the red zone once again. They were finally able to convert on a David Montgomery run, where the Charger defenders, looking exhausted, didn't seem to put forth much effort into tackling him. It appeared as though Chicago would establish control of this contest, but Philip Rivers finally caught fire. Rivers played much better in the second half, as he went 12-of-16 for 111 yards following intermission, compared to 7-of-13 for 90 yards and an interception before half. Rivers' improved play meant that the Bears once again had to be productive offensively, and that didn't happen. Instead, Trubisky tossed an interception because he didn't see the safety, overthrew Taylor Gabriel for an easy touchdown, then lost a fumble on the next play. This set up the go-ahead touchdown for the Chargers. Chicago then had one more chance, but Pineiro whiffed on a 41-yard try to end the game. The Bears lost once again, thanks to offensive ineptitude and kicking woes. Trubisky finished 23-of-35 for 253 yards, one interception and a lost fumble. The stats don't look that bad, but Trubisky was atrocious most of the time. It was yet another reminder of how good the Bears would be had they chosen Deshaun Watson or Patrick Mahomes over Trubisky. Thanks to Trubisky's incompetence, no Chicago receiver was overly productive. Miller (3-67) was the leader in receiving, while Robinson (5-62) should've caught the aforementioned touchdown; the same goes with Gabriel (4-53). If there's a silver lining to this loss, it's that Montgomery looked terrific. Montgomery gashed the Chargers' porous run defense for 132 yards and a touchdown on 26 carries. He also caught four of his five targets for 12 yards. I mentioned Rivers' first- and second-half splits. His final numbers were 19-of-29 for 201 yards, one touchdown and an interception. Rivers' stats should've been better, but his receivers dropped five passes, one of which was by Keenan Allen in the end zone. Speaking of Allen, he had some issues beyond the dropped touchdown. He repeatedly slipped on the grass, which the announcers speculated could have been the result of his balky hamstring. Allen ended up catching seven balls for 53 receiving yards. Elsewhere

in the receiving corps, Mike Williams (3-69) had two drops, as did Hunter Henry (4-47). Henry was also whistled for offensive pass interference. This was a very rough game for him. The Chargers spent too much time early in the afternoon trying to establish Melvin Gordon on the ground. Gordon was a poor rusher for the most part, but he scored on a 19-yard touchdown, showcasing some nice moves. Still, this was the only success he had, as Gordon mustered just 31 yards on eight attempts. Austin Ekeler didn't do much as a runner, as he had just five touches on the afternoon for some reason. However, he caught a touchdown to salvage his fantasy game.

Lions 31, Giants 26

Don't be fooled by this final score. The Lions had three separate double-digit leads in this game, but the Giants were able to score a back-door touchdown to reward those who bet on them. Detroit, otherwise, dominated this contest, as the horrible New York defense could get the Lions' offense off the field; Detroit was 8-of-14 on third down. Save for an early mistake on an interception thrown into double coverage, Matthew Stafford was prolific. He misfired on just seven occasions in this affair, going 25-of-32 for 342 yards, three touchdowns and the pick. The Giants had no answer for him or his weapons in what turned out to be a very easy and important victory for Detroit. Two of Stafford's touchdowns went to Kenny Golladay, who had a monstrous afternoon. Golladay caught six of his eight targets for 123 yards and two touchdowns. Golladay tied Danny Amendola for the targets lead with eight, as Amendola hauled in all of those balls for 95 yards. Meanwhile, Marvin Jones didn't have anything close to the Al Bundy game he enjoyed last week. Jones was held scoreless, catching four passes for 22 yards. Elsewhere in the receiving corps, deep specialist Marvin Hall secured Stafford's third touchdown on what was a 49-yard bomb. That was Hall's only catch - and target - on the afternoon. T.J. Hockenson also saw one ball go his way for 21 yards. This was a very disappointing afternoon for him in what seemed like a great matchup. The biggest fantasy football news concerning this game was that Tra Carson started over Ty Johnson. This was a huge shocker, as Johnson was the presumed starting running back in the wake of Kerryon Johnson's injury. Instead, it was Carson, who mustered 34 yards on 12 carries, while Ty Johnson gained 25 yards on seven tries. Carson had some nice runs to begin the game. He made a decent cutback to pick up eight yards on his first attempt, then pummeled his way past the first-down marker with a strong run on the next attempt. Johnson, meanwhile, broke some tackles on an 11-yard run, but dropped a pass. As for other fantasy elements, Daniel Jones made his owners very happy with some great garbage-time yardage and scores. Jones went 28-of-41 for 322 yards and four touchdowns. The numbers look very pretty, but Jones was responsible for some poor pocket awareness in meaningful action, taking some poor sacks and throwing a backward pass that was returned for a score by Devon Kennard. This was one of two "fumbles" Jones was guilty of, and he would have been intercepted had a defender gotten both feet inbounds while making the catch. Two of Jones' touchdowns were thrown to Darius Slayton, who caught two of his five targets for 50 yards, but dropped a pass. Jones' other scores went to Saquon Barkley and Evan Engram (4-40), who was able to rebound from last week's shockingly poor performance. Meanwhile, Golden Tate led the team in receiving, securing eight of his 10 targets for 85 yards. Speaking of Barkley, he didn't have a big rushing performance - 19 carries, 64 yards - but he was a big-time producer as a receiver, catching eight of his 10 targets for 79 yards and a touchdown. Barkley may have scored on another possession, but stumbled on a long reception. Had he not lost his footing, he likely would've gone the distance.

Titans 27, Buccaneers 23

The Titans maintained a pair of eight-point leads over the Buccaneers in the opening half, yet they had barely done anything offensively. As proof, I'll direct you to Ryan Tannehill's stat line at halftime (5-1, 46 yards) and the yardage difference between the two teams (215 Buccaneers, 71 Titans). Tennessee, quite simply, was able to parlay all of Tampa Bay's mistakes into scores. Jameis Winston wasn't ready for a snap, which set up a Tannehill touchdown to Jonnu Smith. Winston then tossed an interception toward no one on what I can assume was a miscommunication. This set up a Tannehill touchdown to Tajae Sharpe. Tennessee didn't even take advantage of all of Winston's early blunders. Winston appeared to fire another interception on a horrible throw, but the Titans dropped the pass. This missed opportunity prevented the Buccaneers from quickly imploding, and they were able to rebound to eventually take a lead, thanks to a Derrick Henry fumble around midfield. However, Tennessee's defense held up and restricted the Buccaneers from doing anything else in the second half. Tannehill, conversely, finally began producing after a poor start, leading his team on a game-winning drive in the fourth quarter. The Titans ended up prevailing, although there was some controversy. The play that could have changed the game occurred on what seemed to be a Tennessee attempted field goal in the fourth quarter. The Titans ran a fake, which ended up being a fumble. The Buccaneers appeared to scoop and score to take the lead, but the officials blew the play dead for some reason. It's unclear if the Buccaneers would have prevailed - there was still enough time remaining for Tennessee to produce a touchdown drive - but this blown call really hurt Tampa Bay's chances of winning. Then again, Winston can only blame himself for the loss, given how poorly he played at times. Winston failed to complete half of his passes, going 21-of-43 for 301 yards, two touchdowns and a pair of interceptions. As mentioned, he should have thrown three picks despite playing a defense missing its top cornerback, Adoree Jackson. He also lost a fumble on a strip-sack. Mike Evans had a terrific performance, catching 11 of his 12 targets for 198 yards and two touchdowns. Evans hobbled off the field in the 2-minute drill at the end of the opening half. However, he missed just one play and came back to make a terrific catch along the sideline. He eventually capped off that drive with a score. Evans was the only Buccaneer receiver with more than 43 yards. Both Chris Godwin (4-43) and Cameron Brate (3-32) entered this game with great matchups, but were huge disappointments. Brate dropped a pass in the fourth quarter. The Buccaneers failed to run the ball effectively. In fact, Winston was the leading rusher with eight scrambles for 53 yards on

the ground. Ronald Jones (11-35) and Peyton Barber (10-20) both struggled. Jones was stuffed on a key fourth-down rush, thanks to a great play by Jurrell Casey. Tennessee had more success establishing the run, which was mildly surprising, given how potent the Buccaneers have been against ground attacks all year. Still, Henry didn't have a great game, as he mustered just 75 yards on 16 carries with the aforementioned fumble. Henry barely did anything in the receiving game. Tannehill wasn't great either, going 21-of-33 for 193 yards and three touchdowns. He didn't make any mistakes for most of the afternoon, which is what the Titans are looking for. However, he had a sequence where he had two interceptions negated by penalties, as he released passes off his back foot. Tannehill's touchdowns went to Smith (6-78), Sharpe (3-18) and A.J. Brown (2-11). Smith had a very strong outing and made the case to be the starting tight end going forward, even when Delanie Walker returns from injury. Corey Davis, conversely, struggled, hauling in just two of his six targets for only nine yards.

Rams 24, Bengals 10

The Rams prevailed to win their second-consecutive game, but this was a Pyrrhic victory of sorts. Brandin Cooks was lost in the opening quarter when he suffered a concussion. Fortunately for Cooks and his team, there will be an impending bye week for the talented receiver to recover. Of course, there was no way that one lost receiver would impact the Rams' ability to beat the dreadful Bengals. Cincinnati's defense is an abomination and looked pitiful while trying to stop Cooper Kupp. The Rams' slot receiver had a tremendous performance, catching five passes for 165 yards and a touchdown in the opening half alone. Had the Bengals been more competitive and forced the Rams to throw more in the second half - Jared Goff passed just 12 times after intermission - Kupp could've put together a record-breaking performance. Kupp ended up snatching seven of his 10 targets for 220 yards and a touchdown. The score occurred on a double-reverse pass in which cornerback B.W. Webb fell down. Kupp has emerged as a legitimate WR1 in both real life and fantasy. Goff, meanwhile, went 17-of-31 for 372 yards and two touchdowns. He was unstoppable in the opening half, but struggled a bit following the break despite not throwing the ball very much. Goff was just 4-of-12 for 99 yards in the second half, and he was nearly intercepted by three separate Bengals on the same play. Todd Gurley didn't have to do very much because the Bengals weren't competitive. Gurley was given just 10 carries, which he turned into 44 yards and a touchdown. Darrell Henderson was given a slightly greater workload, tallying 49 yards on 11 totes. he also caught two passes for 20 receiving yards. Henderson saw most of the work in the second half as Gurley was getting his knee checked out on the sidelines. Excluding Kupp, the only Ram to accumulate more than 36 receiving yards was Josh Reynolds (3-73), who saw eight targets because of Cooks' concussion. Reynolds also caught a touchdown. Conversely, Robert Woods (2-36) barely did anything. The Bengals had four productive receivers, as Andy Dalton did lots of throwing in second-half garbage time. Alex Erickson led the way with six grabs on his seven targets for 97 yards. Tyler Eifert (6-74) was next, followed by Tyler Boyd (6-65) and Auden Tate (5-65). Dalton, who had just 141 yards at the half, finished 32-of-52 for 329 yards and a touchdown. Dalton was in position to throw a second score toward the end of regulation, but tossed the ball well shy of the end zone on fourth-and-goal, which was a very curious decision, to say the least. The Bengals ran well when they had a chance to, as Joe Mixon gained 66 yards on 17 carries, all while catching all four of his targets for 11 receiving yards and a touchdown. It's a shame the Bengals couldn't be more competitive; otherwise, Mixon may have eclipsed the century mark.

Jaguars 29, Jets 15

Sam Darnold admittedly saw ghosts this past Monday night, but he seemed to exorcise those negative spirits early in this game. Darnold engineered a 12-play, 93-yard drive that culminated with a touchdown pass to tight end Ryan Griffin. The possession featured some horrible tackling by Jacksonville's decimated linebacking corps. This was a very ugly showing by the Jaguars, as the Jets were able to grab an early lead, which they would never relinquish. Actually, not really. The opposite occurred, as the Jaguars destroyed them, as New York could barely muster anything offensively, excluding that initial drive. Excluding that possession, the Jets accumulated 124 net yards of offense during the afternoon, compared to 389 by Jacksonville. While Darnold looked good on the opening drive, the ghosts and goblins were back to haunt him, as he heaved three interceptions. One was an irresponsible throw amid pressure when he was trying to make something happen. The second was a desperation hurl downfield. The third was an ugly pass behind Robby Anderson. Darnold was also strip-sacked when he didn't sense the pressure very well, but he was fortunate that the ball dribbled out of bounds. Darnold was all out of sorts, as he later took a delay of game on a third-and-6 and then was punished for it by being sacked on third-and-11. Darnold finished 21-of-30 for 218 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions. Save for the opening possession and one other drive, Darnold did nothing. It's tough to blame him, as the offensive line is missing three starters, but he's expected to play better than this. Both of Darnold's touchdowns - as well as a two-point conversion - went to tight end Ryan Griffin, who caught all four of his targets for 66 yards. He finished slightly ahead of Demaryius Thomas (5-63) and Robby Anderson (4-43) on the receiving list. Anderson had a poor fantasy performance, but he was able to draw a deep interference flag. He also had a long reception negated by his own pass interference, which as an obvious push-off. With the Jets trailing for most of this game, Le'Veon Bell was able to carry the ball just nine times, which he turned into 23 rushing yards. Bell wasn't much of a factor as a receiver despite the great matchup against Jacksonville's injury-ravaged linebacking corps. Bell saw just five targets, catching three of them for 12 yards. Adam Gase is doing a very poor job of designing plays for the most talented player on his offense. Leonard Fournette had more success as both a runner and a receiver, though he couldn't fully take advantage of his good matchup versus the C.J. Mosley-less linebacking corps. This was because Fournette was screwed out of a touchdown. He appeared to score on

one play, but the officials blew the play dead, ruling that his forward progress was stopped. It was a premature call that had Fournette fuming. This wasn't the only instance of Fournette being screwed by the officials, as they accused him of taunting in the opening half when a Jets player was clapping in his face. Fournette had the last laugh though, as he gained 76 yards on 19 carries, most of which was on a 66-yard burst on the second play from scrimmage. He also snatched all seven of his targets for 60 receiving yards. Gardner Minshew had a terrific performance against the Jets' poor cornerbacks for the most part, which lost Trumaine Johnson to injury. However, Minshew began slowly. He had a potential interception dropped by Jamal Adams on a deflection and then was strip-sacked. However, Minshew rebounded, going 22-of-34 for 279 yards and three touchdowns. One of the scores was very impressive, as Minshew was able to avoid the blitzing Adams, who appeared to have the quarterback wrapped up, yet Minshew was able to break out of it and find Chris Conley for a score. Minshew's only blemish on the afternoon was a lost fumble on a strip-sack. In addition to Conley (4-103), Minshew's touchdowns went to D.J. Chark (6-79) and Keelan Cole (2-12). Chark saw way more targets (12) than anyone else; no other Jaguar had more than seven balls thrown their way. Conley dropped a pass.

Seahawks 27, Falcons 20

The Seahawks had a 24-0 lead, yet couldn't cover the 8.5 points because stupid Matt Schaub had to throw a billion yards in garbage time. Unreal. But we released our pick on Seattle early in the week when the line was -3.5. With Matt Ryan out of this game with an ankle injury, everyone expected Seattle to roll Atlanta, and that's exactly what happened in the opening half, as the Seahawks built an insurmountable lead. Atlanta fought hard to try to get back into the game in the second half, outscoring Seattle 20-3, but a Devonta Freeman fumble and two missed field goals killed the Falcons' hopes of completing a comeback. In the grand scheme of the season, the Seahawks maintained their place in the divisional and wild-card races, while the Falcons maintained their draft positioning to land an elite talent to help start a turnaround for the franchise. That could be Ohio State edge rusher Chase Young via our 2020 NFL Mock Draft. The Seahawks turned the opening possession into a field goal drive. A 25-yard pass to Julio Jones got Atlanta moving, but Matt Bryant missed a 51-yard field goal. Seattle took advantage with a completion to Tyler Lockett and runs from Chris Carson to set up a four-yard touchdown pass to D.K. Metcalf (3-13). The Seahawks were quickly set up for more points with Schaub throwing an interception to Mychal Kendricks. Carson trucked Deion Jones on 19-yard run, and Carson finished off the drive with a short touchdown run. After another missed goal for Atlanta, Lockett made some beautiful catches with Metcalf getting wide open at the goal line for his second touchdown. Seattle took a 24-0 lead into the half. In the third quarter, the Falcons produced a touchdown on the opening possession as a 35-yard screen pass to Austin Hooper got them moving, and Brian Hill scored a 23-yard touchdown with Calvin Ridley (4-70) catching a two-point conversion. A Grady Jarrett sack got the ball back quickly for the Falcons, and they added a field goal drive to cut the Seahawks' lead to 24-11. Schaub kept ripping the Seattle secondary, using Jones and Ridley to move down the field, but inside the 5-yard line, Freeman fumbled the ball away when he tried to stretch the ball across the goal line. Seattle turned the turnover into a 54-yard field goal. Russell Wilson completed 14-of-20 passes for 182 yards with two touchdowns. Lockett has six reception for 100 yards. Chris Carson ran for 90 yards on 20 carries with a touchdown. In relief of Ryan, Schaub completed 39-of-52 passes for 460 yards with a touchdown and an interception, but most of this occurred in garbage time. Freeman ran for 39 yards on 13 carries. Julio Jones had 10 receptions for 152 yards.

Saints 31, Cardinals 9

Though the Saints won this game, and no harm was done, I was skeptical of their decision to start Drew Brees in this game. I thought they were going to risk injury to Brees, so why not wait until after the bye? Drew Brees didn't miss a beat in his first game back from thumb surgery, as he completed 34-of-43 passes for 373 yards and three touchdowns before Teddy Bridgewater came in for mop-up duty in a 31-9 drubbing of the Arizona Cardinals. Arizona came into New Orleans feeling good with a three-game winning streak, but those wins came against the Bengals, Falcons and Giants, i.e., not the Saints. New Orleans, on the other hand, came into this game on a five-game heater with its backup quarterback, Teddy Bridgewater, leading the way for each. The Cardinals looked overmatched throughout, as they ran 49 plays and converted just 10 first downs for 237 total yards and three field goals. Playing against some weak front lines had helped the Cardinals move the ball over the last three weeks, but the Saints' defensive line is another beast and got to Kyle Murray three times while stonewalling the run game. David Johnson was out this week with an ankle injury, giving Chase Edmonds another shot as the lead back. Last week, Edmonds steamrolled the Giants' defense for 150 yards and three touchdowns. This week was another story, as he rushed seven times for eight yards and caught two targets for five yards before leaving the game in the third quarter with a hamstring injury. New Orleans' backup running back Latavius Murray had a similar trajectory as Edmonds, as he got the start last week against the Bears due to an Alvin Kamara ankle injury and went off for exactly 150 yards and two touchdowns. Unfortunately for Arizona, the similarities stopped there, as Murray once again went off with Alvin Kamara sidelined, rushing 21 times for 102 yards and a touchdown and catching 9-of-12 targets for another 55 yards and his second touchdown. Brees and Murray didn't need much more help winning this matchup, but Michael Thomas still plays for the Saints, and he has been unstoppable. Thomas' ability to catch everything thrown his way continued to help as he took on Patrick Peterson for much of the day and still caught all 11 of his targets for 112 yards and a touchdown. There isn't much of anything positive for the Cardinals in this game, but they did get Christian Kirk back after two missed games and he caught 8-of-11 targets for 79 yards and ran the ball once for 19 yards. He should continue to be a strong target, as Larry Fitzgerald has fallen off a cliff of late and nobody stepped up when Kirk was out. Kliff Kingsbury made one of the more confusing calls of the day when the Cardinals had a fourth-and-1 at their

own thirty-yard line down 10-6 and opted to go for it. It could have paid off, and I'm usually all for a team going for it on fourth-and-1 about anywhere on the field, but after having no luck running the ball on the Saints' massive defensive line, Kingsbury called a run up the gut for Edmonds, which was predictably unsuccessful. When you have Kyler Murray as your quarterback, that play makes absolutely no sense. Then, of course, Brees quickly turned that possession with a short field into a touchdown and a 17-6 lead. The 3-4-1 Cardinals now get the pleasure of hosting the undefeated 49ers on Thursday Night Football without their two best running backs. It will get ugly. The Saints get to take their 7-1 record into the bye, which will help Alvin Kamara get fully healed and then they play a home game against the 1-7 Falcons.

49ers 51, Panthers 13

The Panthers lost this game, but they at least had a safety and a field goal. The 49ers cruised to a win over Carolina, as the San Francisco defensive line dominated at the point of attack. At 7-0, the 49ers maintained their division cushion, as the Seahawks and the Rams both won. This is a painful loss for the Panthers, as they are another game back from New Orleans in the NFC South, and have fallen behind Seattle and Minnesota in the wild-card race. The 49ers took the opening drive and marched down the field with the newly acquired Emmanuel Sanders catching a short touchdown pass. After a three-and-out, Luke Kuechly picked off Jimmy Garoppolo. Carolina turned the turnover into a field goal. Garoppolo bounced back as he found George Kittle down the seam for a gain of about 20 and an unnecessary roughness penalty on Tre Boston tacked on 15 more. The drive ended with Tevin Coleman taking off on a 19-yard touchdown run. Kyle Allen then threw his first interception, with Emmanuel Moseley picking him off. A screen pass to Coleman got the ball into the end zone, and the 49ers were up 21-3 early in the second quarter. Just before halftime, Coleman took off on a 48-yard touchdown run with a botched extra point snap to give the 49ers a 27-3 lead at halftime. Nick Bosa had three sacks to lead San Francisco to six sacks by intermission. Carolina finally showed signs of life in the third quarter with a safety from Bruce Irvin and a 40-yard touchdown run by Christian McCaffrey. However, the 49ers promptly moved down the field, with Deebo Samuel taking a carry 20 yards for a touchdown. Late in the third quarter, Allen threw a terrible pass into triple coverage, and it was picked off by Richard Sherman to set up the 49ers at the Panthers' 10-yard line, and that play essentially clinched the win for San Francisco. Coleman scored his fourth touchdown of the game to expand the margin. Garoppolo was 18-of-22 for 175 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. Coleman ran for 105 yards on 11 carries with three touchdowns and two receptions for 13 yards and a score. Kittle led the 49ers in receiving with six receptions for 86 yards. McCaffrey ran for 117 yards on 14 carries with a touchdown. He also had four catches for 38 yards. Bosa had three sacks and an interception in a game of pure domination from the 49ers rookie.

Texans 27, Raiders 24

The Texans won this game to improve to 5-3, but this may have been a Pyrrhic victory for them. They lost some players to injury in this game; none more important than J.J. Watt, who may have suffered a torn pectoral. Watt was sent to the hospital to confirm the injury. If it's a torn pec, he'll be done for the season, which would be a huge blow for Houston's defense. I can't ever recall a quarterback throwing a touchdown after being kicked in the eye. That's exactly what happened on what turned out to be the winning score in this contest. Deshaun Watson rolled out of the pocket amid pressure, as Arden Key's leg levitated off the ground and caught Watson in the eye. Despite wincing in obvious pain and fixing his face mask, Watson was able to locate Darren Fells for the decisive touchdown. Watson was terrific in the second half after starting slowly with horrible accuracy issues prior to halftime. He was 14-of-18 for 156 yards and two touchdowns following intermission. Watson couldn't get things going in the opening half, which was very bizarre, given how easy of a matchup this was for him. He even had a dropped pick-six in the opening quarter. However, Watson eventually found a rhythm, as he was able to finish 27-of-39 for 279 yards and three touchdowns to go along with 10 scrambles for 46 rushing yards. DeAndre Hopkins also had a big second half. He didn't find the end zone, but he was able to secure 11 of his 13 targets for 109 yards. Fells (6-58) scored twice, while Duke Johnson had the third touchdown. Carlos Hyde had a solid performance, which was a bit of a surprise. He rushed for 83 yards on 19 carries, which includes a 20-yard burst and a converted third-and-medium situation where it looked like the Texans were planning on going for it on fourth down. The conversion set up Watson's eye-kick touchdown. Josh Jacobs didn't have as many rushing yards as Hyde, which was even more shocking. Jacobs didn't have a single negative rush prior to this game, yet had four carries for losses in this contest, despite Watt's injury. Jacobs finished with 66 yards on 15 carries. Derek Carr played well against a poor secondary that was not enhanced by Gareon Conley. Carr went 18-of-30 for 285 yards and three touchdowns. He got away with one big mistake, nearly throwing a potential pick-six, which was dropped. Carr's scores went to Tyrell Williams (3-91), Hunter Renfrow (4-88) and Darren Waller (2-11). Waller had a poor yardage total, but he had a big gain negated by offensive pass interference. Williams was also responsible for a pair of drops on the final offensive drive. Catching one of them would've put the Raiders in position to kick the tying field goal at the very least. These two drops were sandwiched by a Jacobs 10-yard run negated by a hold. The Raiders can certainly blame themselves for this loss. The Raiders lost center Rodney Hudson to an ankle injury in this game, as he was carted off the field in the opening half. Oakland's offense won't be the same without him, but from what I could tell, his replacement did a solid job.

Patriots 27, Browns 13

As Tony Romo mentioned during the telecast, the Patriots would have a winning record if their offense didn't step on the field at all this season, thanks to everything the defense has done. That continued to be the case, as the New England stop unit dominated Cleveland's offense in this rainy affair. The Patriots effectively won this game on three consecutive

Cleveland plays. Nick Chubb had a fumble knocked out by his own teammate, which was returned for a touchdown. Chubb then lost a fumble at the end of a 44-yard run, which negated a score. Baker Mayfield followed that up by tossing an interception on a weird pitch, which Lawrence Guy scooped into his hands after the ball hit his face mask. This set up a New England touchdown. The Browns had three turnovers on three consecutive plays, which turned into 14 New England points. As it so happens, that was the margin of victory for the Patriots. This was just part of a dreadful afternoon for Mayfield, who was befuddled by Bill Belichick's schemes. He was lucky to get away with just one interception, as he had another potential pick that was dropped. Mayfield has been struggling going beyond his first read, and the Patriots were able to take that away, forcing yet another young quarterback into poor decisions. It didn't help that Mayfield saw tons of pressure, as he was swallowed up in the backfield five times. Stephon Gilmore was able to erase Odell Beckham from this game, as Beckham caught five passes for just 52 yards. He dropped a pass on a third-down back-shoulder attempt. There will be better days for Beckham going forward in easier matchups. Jarvis Landry saw more targets (10, compared to Beckham's seven) and caught five passes for 65 yards. He got hurt in the second half, but didn't miss much action. Chubb had a pretty stat line, rushing for 131 yards on 20 carries. However, his two mistakes proved to be very costly, as the pair of fumbles ruined any sort of chance the Browns had of keeping this game close. Meanwhile, the Patriots could have run the Bobby Boucher offense and still prevailed, but Tom Brady had to work with newly acquired Mohamed Sanu to implement the former Falcon into the offense. Sanu ended up catching two passes for 23 yards, one of which was a fourth-down reception that occurred as Sanu was getting hit. However, Sanu also dropped a pass. Despite Sanu's pedestrian numbers, Brady was able to go 20-of-36 for 259 yards and two touchdowns. Brady didn't commit a turnover, but easily could have, as he had a dropped interception in the end zone when he stared down his receiver. He's lucky Denzel Ward dropped the ball. Brady's two scores went to Julian Edelman, who reeled in eight of his 11 targets for 78 yards. Edelman barely eclipsed James White (4-75), who had a 59-yard reception. Sony Michel was the lesser of two former Georgia running backs as far as his raw numbers are concerned. Michel gained 74 yards on 21 carries, but unlike Chubb, he wasn't responsible for any turnovers.

Packers 31, Chiefs 24

If the lopsided betting action is any indication, most people expected the Chiefs to get blown out of the water in this game because Matt Moore would be starting in favor of Patrick Mahomes. It seemed as though that's exactly what would happen when Green Bay established a quick 14-0 lead. Aaron Rodgers couldn't be stopped, as he delivered big plays to Jake Kumerow and Aaron Jones. No one expected the Chiefs to mount a comeback after that, but Andy Reid devised a great game plan to put Matt Moore and the Kansas City play-makers in a great position versus the Packer defense. Moore caught fire, and the Chiefs eventually went up 17-14. Suddenly, it appeared as though the Chiefs would pull the upset. This game completely changed toward the end of the third quarter. Tied at 17, the Chiefs were driving, but their possession came to an abrupt end when LeSean McCoy lost a fumble. This turnover allowed the Packers to take the lead. Combine that, and a 67-yard Aaron Jones scoring reception against incompetent linebacker coverage, and the Packers established a touchdown lead that they wouldn't relinquish, especially after running out the clock impressively on the final drive. Jones had an amazing performance. His rushing numbers weren't great - 13 carries, 67 yards - but he caught seven of his eight targets for 159 receiving yards and two touchdowns. The kicker is that Jones had a third touchdown wiped out by replay review that showed that he was barely out of bounds during a long gain. Jamaal Williams (7-22) vultured his first of two scores immediately afterward, but Jones fantasy owners shouldn't complain too much, especially after seeing their star running back return from injury; Jones got hurt in the opening half and went into the locker room to get X-rays, but he was able to return to action. Rodgers threw three touchdowns, all to his running backs. Rodgers was terrific for the most part, misfiring on just 10 occasions. He finished 23-of-33 for 305 yards and the trio of scores. Rodgers made just a couple of bad throws, but got lucky in those instances. The Chiefs had legitimate chances to secure a pair of interceptions of his, but dropped both balls. One dropped pick occurred in the end zone, so this game could have gone much differently for Kansas City if its defensive backs had better hands. Excluding the running backs, Jake Kumerow (2-48) led the Packers in receiving. Jimmy Graham (3-20) was next. Both Marquez Valdes-Scantling (1-4) and Geronimo Allison (1-7) were major disappointments. Davante Adams could be back versus the Chargers next week. Kansas City's receivers were more productive, despite the quarterbacking. Tyreek Hill paced the team with six catches on nine targets for 76 yards. Both Travis Kelce (4-63) and Mecole Hardman (2-55) scored touchdowns, while Sammy Watkins (5-45) was guilty of a drop. Moore allowed the Kansas City wideouts to excel. As the NBC announcers put it, Moore went toe to toe with Mike Tyson. He played very well, going 24-of-36 for 267 yards and two touchdowns. He had some early-game jitters, made apparent by some poor misfires, but he got into a groove and improved as the evening progressed. Moore had just four incompletions in the second half. McCoy, conversely, performed poorly. He was nowhere to be seen following his costly fumble. He ended up with 40 yards on nine carries, while Damien Williams (7-30) scored a touchdown.

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PRO FOOTBALL BEST BETS

San Francisco - 9½ Over ARIZONA by 21

The San Francisco 49ers take their perfect record of (7-0) into Glendale, AZ for a Thursday night matchup with the Arizona Cardinals. The Cardinals are (3-4-1) on the season. The 49ers are coming off a win at home on Sunday. The 49ers steamrolled the Panthers to a tune of 51-13. The Cardinals saw their 3 game winning streak come to an end in New Orleans. The Cardinals lost to the Saints 31-9.

The 49ers had a lot of offense in the win over Carolina, but were ultimately led by running back Tevin Coleman, who had one of the best productions for fantasy players. Coleman had 105 yds rushing on 11 carries and 3 rushing touchdowns. Coleman also added a receiving touchdown on 2 receptions. Jimmy Garoppolo completed 18 of 22 passes for 175 yds, to go along with 2 touchdowns and 1 interception. As a team, the 49ers rushed for 232 yds and 5 scores. The 49ers picked off Carolina quarterback Kyle Allen 3 times in the victory.

The Cardinals led 3-0 after the first quarter over the Saints, but the Cardinals would go the whole game without finding the end zone. Arizona quarterback Kyle Murray was 19/33 for 220 yds, with no interceptions. The Cardinals only managed 40 yds rushing on 11 carries. The Cardinals were hoping running back Chase Edmonds would be able to mirror his previous outing against the Giants. That was not the case, Edmonds had 7 carries for 8 yds and is listed as doubtful against the 49ers.

The 49ers arguably have the best defense in football, ranking in the top 3 in a lot of categories. The 49ers rank 2nd in fewest points allowed at 11 per game. The 49ers also are giving up the fewest yds per game (224). With Arizona running back Chase Edmonds listed as doubtful, it will be hard for the Cardinals to get drives going. The Cardinals will have to turn to more of a passing attack offensively. This plays right into the 49ers defensive ability, the 49ers rank 1st in pass defense. The 49ers are giving up an average of 129 yds through the air.

The 49ers are 5-2 ATS in all games. The 49ers are 3-1 ATS as the away team. With Arizona not having a valid running attack, the San Francisco defense will be able to key in on the pass. Most of the running done by the Cards will be from Murray, especially after dropping back to pass. We believe that Murray will really be rudely welcomed to the NFL this week. **Take the big bad Niners and lay the road wood.**

Projected Score: San Francisco 34, Arizona 13

JACKSONVILLE + 2½ Over Houston by 7

The Houston Texans and Jacksonville Jaguars is the next matchup that is part of the series taking place at Wembley Stadium in London. The Texans enter this game with a record of (5-3) to this point. The Texans are coming off a narrow 3 point victory over the Oakland Raiders, 27-24. The Jaguars have won their last 2 games to get back to 500 for the season (4-4). The Jaguars enter this game, having just beat the Jets 29-15.

Houston saw quarterback Deshaun Watson complete 27 of 39 passes for 279 yds and 3 touchdowns. The Texans as a team rushed for 130 yds. Carlos Hyde led the backfield with 83 yds rushing on 19 carries. DeAndre Hopkins reeled in 11 receptions for 105 yds in the win. The Texans were trailing most of the game, but rallied in the 4th quarter to out score the Raiders 14 to 3. The Texans out gained the Raiders 388 to 378. There were no turnovers in the game.

In the win over the Jets, Jaguars quarterback Gardner Minshew threw for 3 touchdowns and no interceptions. Minshew was 22 of 34 for 279 yds. Leonard Fournette rushed for 76 yds on 19 carries. Chris Conley led the Jacksonville receiving core with 103 yds on 4 receptions and a score. The Jaguars defense held the Jets to 213 of total yards offensively. The Jaguars defense also forced Jets quarterback Sam Darnold to throw 3 picks.

The Texans are 1-3 ATS as the favorite and the Texans are 2-4 ATS in their last 6 against the Jaguars. The Jaguars are 5-1 ATS vs conference opponents. The Jaguars are 3-2 ATS as the underdog.

Looking into this early morning Sunday matchup, both teams will have to make the time difference adjustment. The Jaguars have the experience in this situation, compared to the Texans. This is a very key game for the Jaguars, if the Jags are wanting to get into the post season. The Texans are going to do their part in trying to ruin those hopes.

The Texans in a way are at a disadvantage here, as London seems to be the Jaguars 2nd home. It will be interesting to see how the fans affect this game. We're going to side with Jacksonville here, based off their play the last two weeks and with the amount of experience they have in London. **Take the short dog Jaguars in this spot.**

Cheerio!

Projected Score: Jacksonville 27, Houston 20

PHILADELPHIA - 4½ Over Chicago by 13

The Chicago Bears hit the road for a matchup with the Philadelphia Eagles. The Bears enter this contest after a heart breaking loss to the Los Angeles Chargers. The Bears are (3-4) on the season. The Eagles dismantled the Buffalo defense this past week, putting up 31 points. The Eagles are (4-4) on the season, with win over the Bills 31-13.

In what was a back in fourth game, Chicago quarterback Mitchell Trubisky put the Bears in a position to win on a last second field goal. The Bears brought kicker Eddy Pineiro in for a 41 yd field goal, but Pineiro's kick went wide left. While Pineiro did make 3 field goals, Pineiro did miss 2 on the day. The Bears had a huge performance from running back David Montgomery in the loss. Montgomery did his part, rushing for 135 yds on 27 carries and a score. Trubisky was 23 of 35 for 253 yds and an interception, while also losing a fumble. The Bears have now lost 3 in a row.

The Eagles ended their 2 game losing streak in the win over the Bills. Philadelphia quarterback Carson Wentz was 17 of 24 for 172 yds and 1 touchdown. Eagles running back Jordan Howard fell just shy of the 100 yd mark in the game. Howard rushed for 96 yds on 23 carries and added a touchdown. Miles Sanders had 3 rushes for 74 yds and a score. Sanders also recorded 3 receptions for 44 yds. The Eagles out gained the Bills 371 to 253 on the day. The Eagles defense stood tall in a tough Buffalo environment.

The Bears are 2-5 ATS this season. The Bears are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 games vs the Eagles.

The Chicago fans booed the Bears off the field as the Bears headed to the locker room with a 9-7 lead, after a made field goal by Pineiro. The Bears had ample amount of opportunities to score a touchdown from inside the 5 and the bears could not get it done. This is the kind of season the Bears fans have witnessed from the Bears offense.

However, the defense have been keeping the Bears in the game. The Bears have only given up more than 17 points twice this season. Trubisky committed two huge 4th quarter turnovers on back to back drives in the loss. Trubisky will be the starter again this week. As we mentioned, the Eagles gained 371 yaards on the tough Buffalo defense. The Eagles have won 2 in a row and beat a very solid Bills team. Until the Bears show some consistency on offense, it is hard to side with the Bears. **Take the Eagles to win and cover.**

Projected Score: Philadelphia 27, Chicago 14

Indianapolis at PITTSBURGH Under 43½ by 10½

The Indianapolis Colts take their record of (5-2) on the road for a clash with the Pittsburgh Steelers (3-4). The Colts enjoyed a win over the Broncos this past Sunday. The Colts won 15-13, thanks to a game winning 51 yd field goal by Adam Vinatieri. The Steelers enter this game on a short week, having beat the Dolphins 27-14 on Monday night.

In the win over the Broncos, Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett completed 15 of 25 passes for 202 yds. Marlon Mack led the rushing attack with 76 yds on 19 carries and a rushing score. Jack Doyle led the Colts in receptions with 4, while totaling 61 yds. Vinatieri made up for his missed field goal and missed extra point, thanks to his 51 yd game winning field goal. Vinatieri was 3 of 4 on field goals for the game. The Colts out gained the Broncos 318 to 279, while committing just one turnover.

The Steelers fell behind early in the 1st quarter 14-0 and trialed at halftime 14-10. The Steelers put up 17 points in the second half and kept the Dolphins scoreless, to keep the Dolphins winless on the season. Mason Rudolph was 20 of 36 for 251 yds, 2 TD's and 1 pick. James Connor ripped off 145 yds rushing on 23 carries and found the end zone once. Juju Smith-Schuster hit the 100 yd mark for the game, reeling in 5 catches for 103 yds and a score. The Steelers forced 4 Dolphin turnovers en route to the victory.

The Colts are 2-0-1 ATS as the away team. The Colts are 4-2-1 in all games this season. The Colts are 0-5 SU in their last 5 games vs the Steelers. The Steelers are 1-2 ATS as the home favorite. The Steelers are 8-2 SU in the last 10 vs the Colts. The under is 5-2 in Steelers games.

At this point, it is uncertain if Steelers running back James Connor will play against the Colts. Connor suffered an injury in the win over the Dolphins. The Colts have a defense that is in the middle of the pack. The Colts average the 5th most rushes per game, while the Steelers give up over 100 yds rushing per game.

With James Connor not 100% and may not play, we like the under here. The under has been profitable when the Colts are on the road and the under is 5-2 this season for the Steelers. Either team could win this game, so we are going to take the under. The Colts offense has been sputtering and the Steelers had four turnovers against the Fish and only put up 27 points. **The total goes under the posted 43½ points.**

Projected Score: Pittsburgh 17, Indianapolis 16

GRIDIRON GOLD NFL FOOTBALL LINE SHEET OCTOBER 31- NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Date/ET	Rot	Games	Line
10/31/19 8:20 PM ET	301 302	San Francisco 49ers Arizona Cardinals	-9.5 44
11/03/19 9:30 AM ET	451 452	Houston Texans Jacksonville Jaguars	-2 47.5
11/03/19 1:00 PM ET	453 454	Washington Redskins Buffalo Bills	37 -10
11/03/19 1:00 PM ET	455 456	Tennessee Titans Carolina Panthers	41 -3.5
11/03/19 1:00 PM ET	457 458	Chicago Bears Philadelphia Eagles	43.5 -5
11/03/19 1:00 PM ET	459 460	Minnesota Vikings Kansas City Chiefs	-3.5 47
11/03/19 1:00 PM ET	461 462	New York Jets Miami Dolphins	-5.5 41
11/03/19 1:00 PM ET	463 464	Indianapolis Colts Pittsburgh Steelers	-1 43.5
11/03/19 4:05 PM ET	465 466	Detroit Lions Oakland Raiders	51 -2
11/03/19 4:05 PM ET	467 468	Tampa Bay Buccaneers Seattle Seahawks	52.5 -6.5
11/03/19 4:25 PM ET	469 470	Cleveland Browns Denver Broncos	40 -1.5
11/03/19 4:25 PM ET	471 472	Green Bay Packers Los Angeles Chargers	-3 46.5
11/03/19 8:20 PM ET	473 474	New England Patriots Baltimore Ravens	-3.5 44.5
11/04/19 8:20 PM ET	475 476	Dallas Cowboys NY Giants	-7 47.5

GRIDIRON GOLD PRO FOOTBALL POWER RATINGS

TEAM	GPR	HF	TEAM	GPR	HF	TEAM	GPR	HF
ARIZONA	28	2	GREEN BAY	19	3	NY GIANTS	30	2
ATLANTA	34	2	HOUSTON	23	2	NY JETS	29	2
BALTIMORE	21	2	INDIANAPOLIS	23	2	OAKLAND	27	3
BUFFALO	24	2	JACKSONVILLE	25	2	PHILADELPHIA	23	3
CAROLINA	24	3	KANSAS CITY	23	2	PITTSBURGH	24	3
CHICAGO	25	3	LA CHARGERS	27	2	SAN FRANCISCO	23	3
CINCINNATI	33	2	LA RAMS	23	2	SEATTLE	22	3
CLEVELAND	26	2	MIAMI	40	2	TAMPA BAY	27	2
DALLAS	24	3	MINNESOTA	20	4	TENNESSEE	28	2
DENVER	28	3	NEW ENGLAND	15	3	WASHINGTON	34	2
DETROIT	26	3	NEW ORLEANS	19	3	Lower GPR is a stronger rating		

Lower Power Rating is the team with the higher power rating. Subtract HF advantage from pointspread estimates.

THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET NFL BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
NFL	Niners - 9½	Jaguars + 2½	Eagles - 4½	Colts U 43½	