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BETTORS GET BLASTED AS MULTIPLE UPSETS OCCURED DURING A BONKERS CFB SATURDAY

NCAA Landscape

Two unbeaten top-10 teams lost Saturday, Dan Mullen might have suffered his Waterloo moment, Alabama flirted with disaster against LSU, Oregon won in the rain, the Wrecking Crew rose again and Clemson won on a goal-line stand. And that's not even half of what occurred during a bonkers Saturday slate.

We start with winners and losers, run through every team in the Power Five plus a few key G-5 games, hit on the Heisman race and even spin things forward to next week.

Winner: Purdue Boilermakers

All hail Purdue, the giant-slayer. The Boilermakers did what they've done throughout their history Saturday: Knock off top-5 teams. This time, No. 3 Michigan State was the victim. The Spartans fell 40-29, giving Purdue its second double-digit win against a top-5 opponent this year; the other came against Iowa. It's the Boilermakers' 17th win against a top-5 team in the AP Poll era, which began in 1936. No other program has more than 11 such wins, according to ESPN Stats and Info.

Jeff Brohm probably doesn't much care about history. What he can celebrate is Purdue's 6-3 record and an opportunity to win the Big Ten West with three games to play. Brohm makes \$5 million a year. He's paid like a Top 25 coach yet the Boilermakers have managed just one over-.500 season since he arrived in 2017. Some thought he might even be on the hot seat entering this season, in which Purdue was picked to finish 11th overall in the league and sixth in the Big Ten West. This is the proof of concept Brohm needed desperately after some impressive early-tenure recruiting efforts. One of those superstars made the difference Saturday as David Bell continued his assault of elite programs (11 catches, 217 yards, 1 TD). Meanwhile, Brohm, long known as a developer of QBs, seems to have finally found one in former walk-on Aidan O'Connell (40-for-54, 536 yards, 3 TDs).

For Michigan State, it's obviously a disappointing loss after a triumphant comeback win vs. Michigan last weekend, but given Purdue's upset chops and how bad the Spartans' secondary has been recently, many people saw it coming. Michigan State still controls its destiny in the Big Ten East.

And as for Purdue: No. 5 Ohio State can't be happy to see the Boilermakers on the schedule next weekend.

Loser: Florida Gators

Dan Mullen canceled some of Florida's media appointments this week so his players could "make sure our focus is completely on the work that we have to do in the final third of the season." Don't get it twisted. Mullen got mad at the reaction to his recruiting comments and then attempted to control the

narrative by restricting access to his team.

Apparently, Florida's restrictions extended into Saturday as South Carolina clobbered the Gators, 40-17 in Columbia, one of the biggest upsets of the season. The Gators were a 19-point favorite.

A little context on South Carolina before we jump back to Florida: The Gamecocks' starting QB, Jason Brown, played in the FCS last year and made his first career start because SC's first- and second-team QBs were injured. As a team, South Carolina hadn't scored 25-plus points all season against a FBS opponent. And their only Power Five win of the season came against Vanderbilt. In summary: South Carolina may be 5-4, but this is not a good team. Their fans would tell you as much.

Florida is supposed to be, yet here Mullen is staring at a 4-5 disaster. I'm an admitted Mullen defender. He's stubborn, flawed and a control freak. He's also a hell of a football coach. But you know what you can't do? You can't be a stubborn control freak and sit at 4-5. Not at a program like Florida.

The Gators were 8-1 on Dec. 5 of last year. They had a shot at a CFB Playoff berth — playing a whale of a game against inevitable Alabama in the SEC title — and Mullen had finally wrestled some momentum from Georgia. In the time since, the Gators are 2-8 against Power Five competition, the talent gap in the SEC East is going the wrong way and Mullen seems to have lost the Gator fan base. Being Darth Mullen works when things are going well. At 4-5? It'll get you tossed down a reactor shaft.

Winner: Tennessee Volunteers

You could argue hope is the most precious currency in college football. It gets the big-money donors spending, it gets the fan base through the off season and it's the selling point on the recruiting trail. Tennessee, following a bonkers 45-42 win over Kentucky, has plenty of it.

The Vols are 5-4 and can thank the nation's fastest offense. Nobody this season has taken more snaps per minute, and Tennessee pushed things to a different level Saturday night in Lexington. The Vols ran 47 plays against Kentucky in just under 14 minutes. That's 3.4 plays per minute. It's also nearly a point per play. Time of possession is important but often it's an entirely overrated stat. Kentucky had the ball for 46:08 in this game and it didn't matter. Tennessee produced scoring drives of 11, 26, 16, 45 and 44 seconds. That's absurd, and it's a credit to how dangerous Josh Heupel's veer-and-shoot offense can be. Kentucky's top-50 defense was obliterated.

Jeremy Pruitt's offenses were stuck in the stone ages compared to what Heupel runs. Where those teams plodded, ran heavy personnel and tried to control the game, the Vols' current regime has thrown all of that out the window. Tennessee in 2021 plays fast, aggressively and, most importantly, a fun style of football. Can this sort of offensive pace win in the long term? Some balance is likely needed. But when it comes to building excitement and enticing recruits? I can't imagine a better sell to high-profile offensive players. There's hope again in Knoxville, and nothing that happens next weekend vs. No. 1 Georgia can change that.

Loser: Wake Forest Demon Deacons

Poor defensive teams are always in danger of coughing up leads. It doesn't matter how good your offense is or how many points you can score — a defense ranking 83rd nationally in yards allowed per play is going to be a problem a few times a year. For No. 9 Wake Forest, that moment occurred Saturday afternoon against North Carolina, where even 55 points weren't enough in a heartbreaking 58-55 loss.

It's a defeat that both halts Wake Forest's unbeaten regular season and likely the ACC's chances of earning a College Football Playoff berth. The Demon Deacons have only themselves to blame. They were up 48-34 with 16 minutes remaining before a disastrous sequence that saw North Carolina produce a 12-play touchdown drive and Sam Hartman throw a terrible interception, which was promptly turned into another Tar Heel touchdown for a tie game. Hartman threw two interceptions in the loss — he'd thrown just three all season — and penalties (11 for 119 yards) were an issue

throughout. Don't forget about a defense that yielded 24 unanswered points in the fourth quarter before a garbage-time Wake Forest touchdown.

This loss won't hurt Wake Forest's chances in the ACC since the matchup was played as a non-conference game. But it's a painful missed opportunity for the Demon Deacons, who have blown double-digit second-half leads against North Carolina for two straight years.

Winner: Arizona Wildcats

Twenty games, 763 days and one pandemic ... that's how long it had been since Arizona's last victory. It finally ended the FBS' longest losing streak Saturday, beating Cal 10-3. Some will dismiss the win. And it's true the Golden Bears were without some two-dozen players, including seven starters, due to COVID-19 protocols. But you know what? It doesn't really matter. Arizona broke a losing streak that stretched across two coaching staffs and three seasons. That's a win!

Of course the win couldn't come easy. At one point the Wildcats were down to their fourth-string QB, and they were tied up 0-0 at halftime with a team missing a quarter of its roster; it should be noted Arizona is also well short of its 85-player scholarship allowance. But somehow Arizona came up with an eight-play, 55-yard drive with fewer than five minutes remaining to score the only touchdown in a game where the two teams combined to average 3.4 yards per play.

Was it ugly? Yes. Was it hard to watch at times? You bet. But it was a win. And for Arizona and head coach Jedd Fisch, that's more than good enough this Saturday.

Loser: Baylor Bears

Let me paint a picture of TCU this week: The Horned Frogs were without their head coach of the last 22 years (fired), benched their starting QB for a redshirt freshman (Chandler Morris) and were without their best player (Zach Evans). Let's not forget TCU entered the week ranked 124th nationally in yards allowed per play and had lost five of its last six games.

And No. 12 Baylor, a one-loss team whose Big 12 and even scant CFB Playoff hopes were alive, lost to that program, 30-28. A Baylor win would have set up a game-of-the-week situation this coming weekend in Waco against Oklahoma. Alas ...

Despite being outplayed much of the day, the Bears had their chance. TCU missed a 34-yard-field goal with 1:56 remaining. Thirty seconds later and down two points, Baylor was on TCU's 34-yard-line, looking primed to set things up for a game-winning field goal. Then quarterback Gerry Bohanon threw his second interception of the game; he'd thrown just three INTs all season. Both of Bohanon's errant tosses came in the second half on the TCU side of the field. The first one led directly to what would be the game-winning score. The second one ended the game.

Baylor had everything in front of it. With Oklahoma looming next weekend, there's a chance the Bears are out of the Big 12 title game mix by next Saturday evening. That's how costly this loss could be.

ACC + Notre Dame Report

No. 10 Notre Dame trailed Navy, 3-0, at the end of the first quarter. The Irish outscored the Midshipmen by 31 the rest of the way in what turned into a 34-6 win. Kyren Williams led the way for Notre Dame with 95 yards and two touchdowns rushing.

Devin Leary tossed four touchdowns as No. 19 NC State beat Florida State, 28-14, in Tallahassee. The Wolfpack are a one-point road loss to Miami from being unbeaten in ACC play.

Kenny Pickett threw for 416 yards and three touchdowns as No. 25 Pittsburgh beat Duke, 54-29. David Cutcliffe's Blue Devils have now lost five straight after a 3-1 start to the year. It's officially basketball season in Durham.

Clemson put up one of its better efforts of the year in a 30-24 win at Louisville. D.J. Uiagalelei looked a bit more like his 2020 self (220 yards, 3 total TDs) and the defense made a terrific goal-line stand in

the final minute, stuffing Louisville four times inside the five-yard line. This wasn't the season the Tigers wanted, but they could still win nine regular season games.

Tyler Van Dyke stayed hot (389 yards, 3 TDs) as Miami beat Georgia Tech, 33-30, for its third straight win.

Boston College QB Phil Jurkovec returned after what was thought to be a season-ending injury and helped lead the Eagles to a 17-3 win over Virginia Tech on Friday night in the famed 'Red Bandana Game.' The Hokies are 4-5 and it doesn't seem like the Justin Fuente era is going to last much longer.

Big 12 Report

There were a lot of upset picks out there this week with No. 11 Oklahoma State traveling to Morgantown. But the Cowboys had no issues dispatching West Virginia 24-3. The Mountaineers managed just 133 yards in the loss. Many have been waiting for Oklahoma State to fall back to earth, but even considering a loss at Iowa State a few weeks ago, it feels like the Cowboys have instead gotten stronger and more confident in what they do, which is namely playing stifling defense and getting after the QB.

Texas is in a tailspin, that's for sure. The Longhorns (4-5) lost their fourth straight game, a 30-7 embarrassment at the hands of Iowa State in Ames. Texas switched QBs in the first quarter, from Casey Thompson to Hudson Card, but it didn't matter. The Cyclones played their usually stout defense and running back Breece Hall scampered for 136 yards and two touchdowns. Call it a nice bounce-back for the Cyclones after last weekend's loss at West Virginia. They're still alive in the Big 12 race and will be rooting for Oklahoma to dispatch Baylor and Oklahoma State in the next few weeks (Iowa State will need to beat the Sooners, too). Fun fact: Steve Sarkisian, Tom Herman and Charlie Strong all started their Texas tenures 4-5.

Deuce Vaughn ran for 162 yards and three touchdowns on just 11 carries and chipped in five receptions for 60 yards as Kansas State cruised past Kansas, 35-10. The Wildcats achieved bowl-eligibility with the win over their Sunflower State rival.

Big Ten Report

Nebraska hung tough, but No. 5 Ohio State went to Lincoln and won 26-17. The Buckeyes were led by a career-high 240 yards from sophomore wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba, especially helpful on a day without Garrett Wilson (unspecified injury). The loss pushed the Huskers to 3-7 overall. All seven of those losses have come by nine points or fewer. Nebraska fans will be fretting over ill-fated decisions to kick and punt the rest of the weekend.

Pity Indiana, which took true freshman QB Donovan McCulley to Ann Arbor and managed just 195 total yards. No. 7 Michigan cruised to a 29-7 win over the two-win Hoosiers. Safe to say, Michigan was mad about last weekend's loss to Michigan State. Of more pressing concern for Michigan and the national college football audience at large is the status of running back Blake Corum, who left the game early and was spotted on the sideline in a walking boot. Michigan will need the second part of its 1-2 running back punch if it's going to go unscathed through the Penn State/Ohio State gauntlet this month.

Iowa and Northwestern played as ugly game as you'd expect. The No. 22 Hawkeyes won, 17-12, largely because they forced three turnovers. An interception in the first half led to an Iowa touchdown and the two in the second half came in key fourth-quarter moments.

Does Minnesota plan on being remotely consistent this season? Earlier this year, the Golden Gophers lost as a 30-point favorite to Bowling Green. Then P.J. Fleck's club went on a run, debuted at a surprising No. 20 in the initial CFB Playoff rankings and, as of this morning, controlled the Big Ten West pole position. Fleck even got a (well-deserved) contract-extension this week! Bret Bielema's Fighting Illini didn't care about any of that, beating Minnesota 14-6 in Minneapolis. Illinois limited

Minnesota to below 100 yards rushing. At 4-6, Illinois has a shot at a bowl game in Bielema's first season and should be able to parlay this success into a good cycle on the recruiting trail and in the transfer portal.

No. 21 Wisconsin clobbered Rutgers, 52-3, thanks largely to a defense that forced four turnovers and held the Scarlet Knights to 3.6 yards per play. The Badgers have won five straight since a 1-3 start.

Jahan Dotson is making a Biletnikoff statement. The Penn State star caught 11 passes for a school single-game record 242 yards and three touchdowns as the Nittany Lions beat Maryland 31-14. The Terrapins have lost four of five after opening the season 4-0.

Pac-12 Report

No. 4 Oregon shook off a lethargic start and beat Washington, 26-16, in Seattle. Travis Dye was the star for the Ducks, running for 211 yards on a rainy evening in which Oregon threw for just 98 yards. Washington had the ball and a chance to tie late in the game. Head coach Jimmy Lake instead decided to punt from his end zone on fourth down. The ball went over the kicker's head for a safety. It was a terrible decision in the moment and got a justified result.

Utah just crushed Stanford on Friday, 52-7. The Utes are 5-1 in conference play and control their own destiny in the Pac-12 South. Stanford was outgained 440-28 in the first half, which is the second-largest yardage discrepancy in the first half of an FBS game the last seven seasons.

Colorado beat Oregon State in double-overtime, 37-34, thanks to a game-winning field goal from Cole Becker. This game pretty much came down to the kickers. Becker finished 3-for-4 while Everett Hayes went 2-4, including a miss in overtime. The Buffaloes were considered 12.5-point underdogs.

SEC Report

Missouri opened the scoring with a field goal and then No. 1 Georgia reeled off 40 straight points en route to a 43-6 win. Stetson Bennett (13-for-19, 255 yards, 2 TDs) remains the Bulldogs' starting QB and the return of a healthy J.T. Daniels, who played in the second half.

Ed Orgeron nearly pulled off one last magic trick as LSU's head coach, but No. 2 Alabama survived for a 20-14 win. The Crimson Tide could do nothing consistently on the ground, averaging 0.2 yards per carry.

No. 14 Texas A&M has a strong argument to be one of the big winners this week. Not only did the Aggies roll past Auburn, 20-3, on the strength of a defense that is giving us Wrecking Crew flashbacks, but they had a monster day on the recruiting trail. In the span of an hour the nation's No. 2 overall player in 2022, Walter Nolen, and No. 84 overall player, Chris Marshall, committed to Texas A&M. Those adds lift the Aggies to No. 6 in the 2022 Team Rankings. On the field, the Aggies remain a threat in the SEC West.

Hugh Freeze returned to Oxford for the first time and was mostly met with cheers. Well, cheers and a troll or two as No. 16 Ole Miss beat Liberty, 27-14. In a battle of two of the top QBs in the 2022 NFL Draft class, Matt Corral (324 yards, 1 TD) was a clear winner as Malik Willis threw a trio of picks.

Mississippi State missed a potential game-tying field goal as time expired as Arkansas won, 31-28, in Fayetteville. The Razorbacks moved to 6-3 with the win and are bowl eligible for the first time since 2016. The Bulldogs actually missed three field goals in the loss; Mike Leach benched his starting kicker after the second miss. Following the game, Mike Leach announced an open tryout for kickers on campus. He did that at Texas Tech in 2008 and it worked.

Group of Five Report

After getting four stops on the goal line to seemingly end the game, No. 6 Cincinnati needed four more after a fumbled exchange with 1:11 remaining. The No. 6 Bearcats' defense stepped up again, holding Tulsa back four more times for a 28-20 win. Cincinnati moves to 9-0, but I can bet most of the conversation exiting this one is the margin of victory, or lack thereof. Fair or not, Cincinnati needs to

blow teams out to have a shot and this is three straight less-than-impressive efforts by the Bearcats. That's per Vegas' standards, not mine.

No. 15 BYU ate a FCS cupcake, beating Idaho State 59-14. Jarren Hall threw for 298 yards and four touchdowns in the win.

Boise State never trailed and rolled past No. 23 Fresno State, 40-13, on the road. It's been an uneven season for the Broncos, but this is their second Top 25 win of the month after beating BYU on Oct. 9. Jake Haener threw three INTs in the loss.

SMU nearly completed an 18-point fourth-quarter comeback, but Memphis held on for a 28-25 win. True freshman Tigers QB Seth Henigan threw for 392 yards. It's the Mustangs' second straight loss after starting the year 7-0.

Army and Air Force oddly played in a baseball stadium Saturday. Even odder? The two teams combined for 440 yards passing! How's that for service academy option football? Army won, 21-14, and moved to 5-3 on the year.

Western Kentucky WR Jerreth Sterns (11 catches, 110 yards) became the first player this season to cross the 100-catch barrier in a 48-21 Hilltoppers win over Middle Tennessee.

Things are not going well for Temple. The Owls on Saturday lost their fourth straight game, 45-3, to East Carolina. Temple has scored a combined 27 points in those four losses.

UNLV beat New Mexico, 31-17, to earn its first win of the season. The Rebels were the last winless team in the FBS.

This week marked the return of midweek MAC action, and Western Michigan beating North Illinois, 52-47, was the most significant result of the bunch. The loss was the Huskies' first in conference play and lifted the Golden Flashes (4-1) atop the East division standings. Dustin Crum threw for 322 yards and ran for 72 while totaling four touchdowns in the win.

Eastern Michigan achieved bowl eligibility for the fourth time in six seasons with a 52-49 road win over Toledo. The Eagles did not make a bowl appearance between 1975 and 2015.

Offensive Player of the Week

Aidan O'Connell, QB, Purdue: The Boilermakers have employed a three-QB system all season out of necessity. Saturday, in a 40-29 upset of Michigan State, O'Connell played so well that Brohm couldn't even consider taking him out. O'Connell finished 40-for-54 with 536 yards and three touchdowns in the win. It's a career-high yardage effort by the former walk-on as he became only the fifth QB this season to clear the 500-yard passing mark.

Defensive Player of the Week

Will Anderson, LB, Alabama: Anderson was unblockable in Alabama's win over LSU. He led the Crimson Tide with 12 tackles, 4 tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks. He also broke up a pass. It's just my opinion, but I think Anderson is the most dominant edge rusher in college football.

Special Teams Player of the Week

Brian Battie, RB, South Florida: It came in a loss, but Battie was incredible Saturday against Houston. The sophomore running back took back the opening kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown. Some 27 minutes later, he did it again, taking another kickoff back 100 yards for a score. He's only the second player in college football history with a pair of 100-yard kick returns in a single game.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

North Carolina at PITTSBURGH Under 75 by 9

The North Carolina Tar Heels and Pittsburgh Panthers meet Thursday night at Heinz Field.

The North Carolina Tar Heels look for a win after winning five of their last eight games. The Pittsburgh Panthers look for a win after winning five of their last six games.

Tar Heels QB Sam Howell is completing 63.1 percent of his passes for 2,408 yards, 20 touchdowns and 7 interceptions. Josh Downs and Antoine Green have combined for 1,433 receiving yards and 11 touchdowns, while Emery Simmons has 11 receptions. The North Carolina Tar Heels ground game is averaging 219.4 yards per contest, and Ty Chandler leads the way with 884 yards and 13 touchdowns. Defensively, North Carolina is allowing 33.4 points and 421.4 yards per game. Cedric Gray leads the North Carolina Tar Heels with 58 tackles, Tomon Fox has 4.5 sacks and Cam'Ron Kelly has 4 interceptions.

The Pittsburgh Panthers have split their last four home games. Kenny Pickett is completing 68.7 percent of his passes for 3,171 yards, 29 touchdowns and 3 interceptions. Jordan Addison and Jared Wayne have combined for 1,482 receiving yards and 14 touchdowns, while Taysir Mack has 27 receptions. The Pittsburgh Panthers ground game is averaging 167.2 yards per contest, and Israel Abanikanda leads the way with 498 yards and 5 touchdowns. Defensively, Pittsburgh is allowing 22.7 points and 345 yards per game. SirVocea Dennis leads the Pittsburgh Panthers with 51 tackles, Habakkuk Baldonado has 6.5 sacks and John Petrishen has 3 interceptions.

The Tar Heels are 2-6 ATS in their last 8 road games and 1-5 ATS in their last 6 games as an underdog. The Panthers are 10-4 ATS in their last 14 games in November and 5-1 ATS in their last 6 games overall. The over is 6-2 in Tar Heels last 8 games overall. The over is 7-1 in Panthers last 8 home games. The Tar Heels are 5-2 ATS in their last 7 meetings.

The Pittsburgh Panthers are clearly the more consistent team this season, and they have a clear edge on the defensive side of the ball. However, we're going to see an explosive offensive team in the North Carolina Tar Heels. UNC just beat a top-10 team in Wake Forest, took Notre Dame down to the wire the week before that, and is ninth in total offense and 12th in scoring offense. This should be a back and forth contest with plenty of excitement. The whole country is expecting a shootout with these two powerful offenses and great quarterbacks. Yes they'll be plenty of points but this number is very high. Most likely because of the total points both of these offenses put up last week. Our entire staff will be at this game and we will dress warm. We expect a cold night in the 40's with winds at 10 to 15 mph. Most likely this will effect kicks and passes somewhat. Therefore, we're going **Under the total of 75 points**. For the side pick get our famous [guaranteed college football tv pick](#).

Projected Score: Pittsburgh 36, North Carolina 30

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

IOWA - 6 Over Minnesota by 17

The Minnesota Golden Gophers come into this game on the heels of a 14-6 loss at the hands of Illinois in their last game. Tanner Morgan has thrown for 1,357 yards, 6 touchdowns and 7 picks on 60% passing while Trey Potts leads the Gophers with 552 rushing yards. Ky Thomas and Mar'Keise Irving each have 350+ rushing yards as well for the Golden Gophers this season. Mike Brown-Stephens and Chris Autman-Bell each have 300+ receiving yards while Dylan Wright has 246 receiving yards and two more Golden Gophers have at least 100 receiving yards this season. On defense, Mariano Sori-Marin has a team-high 65 total tackles while Boye Mafe has a team-high 6 sacks and Thomas Rush is right behind with 5.5 sacks.

The Iowa Hawkeyes will be looking to add to their 17-12 win over Northwestern in their last matchup. Spencer Petras has thrown for 1,430 yards, 9 touchdowns and 6 interceptions on 58.3% passing while Tyler Goodson leads Iowa with 754 rushing yards and 6 touchdowns. Sam LaPorta leads Iowa's receiving group with 34 grabs for 391 yards while three more Hawkeyes have at least 200 receiving yards and three additional Iowa players have at least 100 receiving yards as well this season. On defense, Jack Campbell leads Iowa with 80 total tackles while Lukas Van Ness has 5 sacks and Joe Evans has 4 sacks. Riley Moss and Dane Belton each have 4 interceptions and Matt Hankins has 3 INTs for the Hawkeyes as well this season.

Minnesota is 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games overall and 20-8-5 ATS in their last 33 road games while the under is 4-0 in their last 4 games as a road underdog. Iowa is 9-3 ATS in their last 12 games following a win while the under is 12-3-1 in their last 16 home games.

I see the trends with the Gophers on the road. Nevertheless, with their running backs out and even banged up they only scored 14 points last week against Northwestern. So how do you think they'll fare against a stout Iowa defense? Right, they will have a very difficult time putting points on the board or even moving the sticks. Minnesota stunk up the joint last week. Nothing comes easy on for the Gophers offense. **Take Iowa to win and cover.**

Projected Score: Iowa 27. Minnesota 10

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

OHIO STATE - 20 Over Purdue by 7

The Purdue Boilermakers come into this game fresh off of their 40-29 win over Michigan State in their last matchup. Aidan O'Connell has thrown for 2,087 yards, 12 touchdowns and 8 interceptions on 71.6% passing while King Doerue leads the Boilermakers with 395 rushing yards and a pair of touchdowns. David Bell leads Purdue's receivers with 64 catches for 1,003 yards and 5 scores while Milton Wright, Payne Durham and Jackson Anthrop each have 300+ receiving yards. Broc Thompson has 204 receiving yards and another three Boilermakers have at least 100 receiving yards as well this season. On defense, Jaylan Alexander leads the Purdue unit with 67 total tackles while Kydran Jenkins has 3 sacks and Cam Allen has 4 interceptions this year.

The Ohio State Buckeyes will be looking to build off of a 26-17 win over Nebraska in their last game. C.J. Stroud has thrown for 2,675 yards, 25 touchdowns and 5 interceptions on 67% passing while TreVeyon Henderson has a team-high 937 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns this season. Jaxon Smith-Njigba leads the Buckeyes in receiving with 50 catches for 888 yards and 4 scores while Garrett Wilson has 687 receiving yards with 6 TDs and Chris Olave has 623 receiving yards with 10 TDs this season. Jeremy Ruckert and the aforementioned Henderson each have 200+ receiving yards while Emeka Egbuka has 145 receiving yards as well this season. On defense, Ronnie Hickman has a team-high 73 total tackles as well as a pair of interceptions while Haskell Garrett has a team-high 4.5 sacks and Tyleik Williams has 4 sacks as well this season.

Purdue is 7-3 ATS in their last 10 road games and 2-5 ATS in their last 7 games following a win while the under is 4-0 in their last 4 road games. Ohio State is 2-6 ATS in their last 8 home games and 3-7 ATS in their last 10 games against a team with a winning record while the over is 7-3-1 in their last 11 conference games.

Ohio State is the better team in my opinion from top to bottom. However, since Aidan O'Connell took over the Purdue offense, they've been boiling hot. Furthermore, the big numbers that Ohio State was covering early on in the year aren't being covered now and they've won their last two games by just nine points each. Purdue has stepped up to the big boys this season, already defeating a pair of top-3 teams in Iowa and Michigan State and while I'm not sure they make it three here, I think there's value with the giant killers. **Take Purdue and the boatload of points.**

Projected Score: Ohio St. 34, Purdue 27

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

South Carolina + 2 Over MISSOURI by 10

South Carolina is fresh off a matchup versus Florida. In that one the Gamecocks managed a dominant win. As for Missouri, they played Georgia in their last outing. The Tigers ended up losing in a blowout there.

South Carolina posted a pair of wins over Eastern Illinois and East Carolina to begin the season, but then fell in tough matchups to Georgia and Kentucky. The Gamecocks went 2-2 over their next four games, beating Troy and Vanderbilt while falling to Tennessee and Texas A&M otherwise.

Last weekend versus Florida, South Carolina scored all of their points through the first three quarters and cruised to an eventual 40-17 win. QB Jason Brown logged 175 yards with two scores. The combination of Kevin Harris and Zaquandre White added 239 rush yards off 29 carries as well.

Over on the Missouri side, they had a 2-2 run over their first four games with victories against Central Michigan and Southeast Missouri State, and another 2-2 stretch afterward with wins over North Texas and Vanderbilt. The Tigers' losses came to Kentucky, Boston College, Tennessee and Texas A&M.

In the matchup against Georgia back on Saturday, Missouri was overwhelmed in the final three quarters, ultimately falling 43-6 in a blowout. QB Brady Cook finished with just 78 yards on 14-of-19 passing, and Tyler Macon led the rush with 42 yards. Tauskie Dove added four catches for 84 yards as well.

SC is 5-1 ATS in their last six games on turf and 4-10-1 ATS in the last 15 games overall. The Gamecocks are also 2-10 ATS in their last 12 conference games.

Meanwhile, the Tigers are 6-20 ATS in their last 26 overall and 1-7 ATS in their last eight conference games. Missouri is 1-8 ATS versus a team with a winning record.

The Gamecocks were great with the run game against Florida, posting 284 yards on the ground with no turnovers and just three punts. Overall the South Carolina defense was great as well, holding the Gators to just 13 first downs and 3-of-10 on third-down tries. As for Missouri, there wasn't much they were going to do against Georgia, so 273 total yards and 15 first downs (and zero turnovers) wasn't too bad. The Tigers only two wins came against North Texas and Vanderbilt and the Gamecocks beat Florida last week. Read that last sentence again. **Take South Carolina + 2 to cover in this game. Projected Score: South Carolina 33, Missouri 23**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

L.S.U. + 2½ Over Arkansas by 7

The Arkansas Razorbacks will be looking to build on a 31-28 win over Mississippi State last time out. KJ Jefferson has thrown for 1,848 yards, 16 touchdowns and 3 interceptions on 64.2% passing while also rushing for 433 yards and 5 scores. Trelon Smith leads Arkansas with 476 rushing yards while Raheim Sanders has 460 rushing yards and Dominique Johnson has 416 rushing yards and a team-high 6 rushing TDs this season. Treyton Burks leads the Hogs with 48 grabs for 799 yards and 8 TDs while two more Razorbacks have 200+ receiving yards and another pair have 100+ receiving yards as well this season. On defense, Bumper Pool leads the Razorbacks with 87 total tackles while Montaric Brown has 3 interceptions and Tre Williams has a team-high 6 sacks this season.

The LSU Tigers will be looking to rebound from their 20-14 loss at the hands of Alabama in their last matchup. Max Johnson has thrown for 2,169 yards, 22 touchdowns and 6 interceptions on 60.1% passing while Tyrion Davis-Price has a team-high 731 rushing yards and 6 scores and Corey Kiner has 227 rushing yards as well this season. Kayshon Boutte leads Ole Miss with 38 grabs for 509

yards and 9 TDs while Jack Bech has 366 receiving yards with 33 grabs. Another three Rebels have 200+ receiving yards and another pair after that have 100+ receiving yards as well on the year. On defense, Damone Clark leads Ole Miss with 107 total tackles while BJ Ojulari has a team-high 6 sacks and Maason Smith has 4 sacks as well this season.

Arkansas is 6-2 ATS in their last 8 road games and 1-4 ATS in their last 5 games overall while the under is 5-0 in their last 5 games against a team with a losing record. LSU is 12-5 ATS in their last 17 games as an underdog and 7-3 ATS in their last 10 games following a loss while the over is 4-0 in their last 4 home games against a team with a winning road record.

I wouldn't be surprised to see the line move some this week. I think there will be some significant action on LSU — especially after the way the Tigers played against Alabama last week. (That's strange to say coming off a loss to Alabama, but it certainly feels like LSU is playing inspired football right now.)

This is a night game at LSU. One of Ed Orgeron's final home games as the Tigers' head coach. It's going to be an emotional night. I think the Tigers are going to come out with a lot of energy and put some points on the board. I like LSU to win this game outright. Arkansas started the season strong, and they have wins against Texas A&M and Mississippi State, but I think the Tigers have too much momentum right now. **I'm taking LSU +2.5.**

Projected Score: LSU 33, Arkansas 26



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NFL SZN

DOUBLE
YOUR FIRST
DEPOSIT

PATRICK MAHOMES

BET NOW

The advertisement features a dark, textured background with a large, stylized 'NFL SZN' logo in the upper right. On the left, the text 'MY BOOKIE' is in orange and grey, followed by 'DOUBLE YOUR FIRST DEPOSIT' in large white letters. A green button with 'BET NOW' is at the bottom left. On the right, Patrick Mahomes is shown in a red Kansas City Chiefs uniform, holding a football, with his name 'PATRICK MAHOMES' written in white script over him.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS AND PITTSBURGH STEELERS ROLL OVER LESSER OPPONENTS

NFL Landscape

Colts 45, Jets 30

I was not looking forward to a Colts-Jets matchup one week prior to this contest because it would certainly be a boring blowout. Everything changed, however, when Jets backup quarterback Mike White set records for his amazing first start in his victory against the Bengals this past Sunday. White was every bit as good as his 400-yard passing performance indicated. He displayed tremendous accuracy throughout the afternoon.

I was eager to see White perform on a national stage, and he didn't disappoint to start the game. He threw a touchdown to Elijah Moore on the second offensive drive of the evening, tying the score at seven. However, White hurt his hand on the play. He was tested on the sideline and told the medical staff that he couldn't feel anything while trying to throw a football. And just like that, White's night was over, as he finished 7-of-11 for 95 yards and a touchdown on just two possessions.

It's such a shame that White couldn't play more than two drives. Save for one pass, a near-interception on a trick play, he looked excellent once again, albeit in a small sample size. Replacing White, Josh Johnson struggled until garbage time. Johnson finished with some strong stats - 27-of-41, 317 yards, three touchdowns, one interception - but he had nothing going for him until the Colts took their foot off the gas. That indicative of the score. The Jets lost 45-30, but they were trailing 42-10 before Indianapolis stopped trying. Johnson nearly covered the spread at the end, but a pass of his was tipped and picked in the red zone at the very end.

Moore had a huge performance, catching seven passes for 84 yards and two touchdowns. He did much better than the disappointing Jamison Crowder, who logged five receptions for only 38 yards.

The Jets couldn't run the ball in their deficit, which is why Michael Carter (13-49) had such meager stats. Carter was expected to have a big receiving game, but that changed when Johnson replaced the injured White. Carter ended up catching only one ball for 37 yards.

The Colts, meanwhile, dominated this game. They scored on every possession until they were up big in the third quarter. In fact, their first drive without any points occurred when they had a fourth-down failure right at the goal line. They trampled over the Jets' poor defense, repeatedly picking up huge chunks of yardage on the ground.

Jonathan Taylor led the way with a monstrous performance. He rushed for 172 yards and two touchdowns on just 19 carries. He also chipped in with two catches for 28 receiving yards. Nyheim Hines, meanwhile, tallied 74 yards and a touchdown on just six attempts to go along with four catches for 34 receiving yards. His score set the tone of this game, as it came on Indianapolis' initial drive.

Carson Wentz fed off the ground attack, as he was given easy passing opportunities all evening. He misfired just eight times as a consequence, going 22-of-30 for 272 yards and three touchdowns. It was a fine rebound performance for Wentz, though it came against one of the worst defenses in the NFL. This victory doesn't absolve him of his dreadful fourth quarter and overtime versus the Titans.

One of Wentz's touchdowns went to an expected player, Michael Pittman (5-64), who paced the team in receiving. The other scores were thrown to Jack Doyle (1-1) and offensive lineman Danny Pinter (1-2).

Jaguars 9, Bills 6

The Bills were considered one of the top teams in the NFL heading into Week 9. The Jaguars were

easily one of the worst teams in the leagues. Naturally, Jacksonville pulled the upset in an exceedingly frustrating 9-6 affair.

Josh Allen had some nice moments early in this game. He picked up a pair of first downs on third-down scrambles on the opening drive. He then completed a 10-yard pass when a defender grabbed him by the face mask. Allen spun around and somehow stayed on his feet on the play. Unfortunately for Allen, it was all downhill from there. He had a major issues dealing with Jacksonville's pass rush, which came alive out of nowhere. Josh Allen - the edge rusher; not the quarterback - sacked the quarterback and then snatched an interception when Allen - the quarterback; not the edge rusher - heaved the ball up for grabs irresponsibly in a 6-6 tie. The turnover gave the Jaguars a chip-shot field goal, which ended up being the decisive scor of the game. The Bills had one more chance, but Allen - the quarterback; not the edge rusher - lost a fumble, and Allen - the edge rusher; not the quarterback - recovered the loose ball to clinch the victory.

Josh Allen - the quarterback; not the edge rusher - went 31-of-47 for 264 yards and two interceptions. He also lost a fumble in Jacksonville territory. Allen managed to scramble five times for 50 rushing yards, but struggled mightily as a passer despite battling a horrific defense. That said, he should've thrown a touchdown pass to Zack Moss in the first quarter, but Moss was guilty of a drop. There were other crucial drops as well. Cole Beasley had a drop of 17 yards, and then Gabriel Davis dropped a ball on the final offensive drive of the game. Allen took a big sack on the very next play.

Though Allen struggled, Stefon Diggs posted a quality stat line with six receptions for 85 yards. Emmanuel Sanders (4-65) and Beasley (8-33) had disappointing yardage totals. Beasley's 17-yard drop would have moved the chains into Jacksonville territory, obviously creating a scoring opportunity that Buffalo sorely needed.

The Bills couldn't run the ball, as usual. Aside from Allen, Buffalo's leading rusher was Devin Singletary, who rushed for 16 yards on six carries. Singletary caught seven passes for 43 receiving yards, so he was able to contribute in that regard. Zack Moss, conversely, did very little (3 carries, 6 yards) because he left the game with an injury. As mentioned, he dropped a potential touchdown before he got hurt.

As for the Jaguars' offense, it did very little to win this game. Jacksonville converted 2-of-13 third downs, averaging just 3.8 yards per play. The important thing is that the Jaguars, unlike the Bills, refrained from committing turnovers.

Jacksonville made plenty of blunders, however. Tight end Luke Farrell and Jamal Agnew each dropped passes on the initial drive. The second possession saw Trevor Lawrence throw an incomplete pass because the intended receiver slipped, and Lawrence took a sack eventually because he held on to the ball too long. He was lucky not to throw a pick on the third drive when he launched a pass into triple coverage.

Lawrence was not impressive, going 15-of-26 for only 118 yards. His teammates hurt him with drops, but he also threw some bad passes. In addition to the near-interception, he overthrow Marvin Jones by a mile for a potential touchdown in the fourth quarter. There was a scary moment when a defender rolled into Lawrence's leg. Lawrence left the game with an ankle injury and was replaced with C.J. Beathard, but he managed to return to the field on the next drive.

Dan Arnold was Lawrence's leading receiver, catching four passes for 60 yards. Arnold, however, dropped a deep pass from Beathard right before halftime. Laviska Shenault (4-24) and Marvin Jones (3-21) disappointed once again.

Carlos Hyde started in place of the injured James Robinson. Hyde managed 67 yards on 21 carries, losing a gain of 12 to an illegal motion penalty. He lost a fumble in field goal range just prior to intermission.

This game was horribly officiated. The Bills were called for a false start on a key fourth-and-2 in the

second half even though the Jaguars were blatantly offsides. The officials also announced the wrong numbers throughout the afternoon.

Patriots 24, Panthers 6

I had interest in betting the Panthers heavily when it was believed that Phillip Walker would start at quarterback. Things changed late in the week, as Sam Darnold was cleared from his concussion. This caused the spread to move in Carolina's favor, but I thought it was less likely that the Panthers would prevail. Darnold, after all, once famously said that he saw ghosts versus Bill Belichick's defense. Darnold had not developed mentally since that embarrassing defeat, so he would undoubtedly see Inky, Blinky, Clyde and Sue in yet another matchup against Belichick.

Predictably, that is exactly what happened, as Darnold imploded versus Belichick yet again. He was just 5-of-12 for 32 yards in the opening half. He didn't commit a turnover, but was close when a tipped pass of his was dropped by a defender. The give-aways came following intermission. Darnold was responsible for three interceptions, including a pick-six where he heaved an inaccurate pass on the run.

Darnold finished 16-of-33 for 172 yards and the three picks. The second interception wasn't really on him because Jamie Collins made a great play to snatch the pass at the line of scrimmage. The third pick, however, was an ugly underthrow into the end zone. J.C. Jackson, who had great coverage on the play, made the pick.

Darnold gave the Panthers no chance to win with his horrible play. Aside from his three picks, he also threw some helpless passes. He lofted a 2-yard pass on a third-and-12 in the red zone, and on the next drive, he tossed a 0-yard pass on a third-and-7 that, according to one of the announcers, "never had a chance." Carolina should have just started Walker, and that should be the plan going forward.

When the Patriots weren't scoring off Darnold interceptions, they were running the ball down Carolina's throat. New England's three primary running backs combined for 146 rushing yards, with Rhamondre Stevenson leading the way with 62 yards on just 10 carries. He was much better than Damien Harris (15-30), though Harris scored a touchdown. Stevenson picked up a first down on a third-down carry with a violent stiff-arm, and he also turned a short toss into a 41-yard reception. That allowed Stevenson to lead the team in receiving as well (2 catches, 44 rec. yards).

Stevenson's 44 receiving yards led the Patriots in that category because Mac Jones didn't need to throw very much. With a huge lead, Jones attempted only 18 passes. He completed 12 of them for 139 yards, one touchdown, an interception and a lost fumble. Jones was strip-sacked because he didn't see the blind-side pressure. His interception was a great play by former Patriot Stephon Gilmore, who ran the route better than the receiver.

Jones had a mixed game overall. He made some nice throws, including a terrific touch pass to Brandon Bolden in the 2-minute drill prior to halftime. He ultimately finished the drive with a strike to Hunter Henry. However, Jones was responsible for the two turnovers, and he was guilty of a delay-of-game penalty coming out of a commercial break. The Patriots were able to successfully hide him against Carolina's terrific pass rush and aerial defense.

Excluding Stevenson, the Patriots' leading receiver was Kendrick Bourne, who caught only three balls for 34 yards. Henry (2-19) reeled in Jones' sole touchdown. Jakobi Meyers (1-8) was a huge disappointment in a tough matchup. His only reception was actually a bad play because he bobbled the ball and was pushed backward. As a result, the Patriots had to punt on a fourth-and-1 when they would've moved the chains had Meyers not bobbled.

Going back to the Panthers, much was expected from Christian McCaffrey in his return from injury, but he was a disappointment. He rushed for just 52 yards on 14 carries, and he caught four passes for 54 receiving yards. Like Stevenson, McCaffrey was a running back who led his team in receiving, though most of McCaffrey's receiving production came in garbage time for some reason. It's puzzling

why the Panthers didn't get him into space more often when the game was in question.

I suspected Belichick would limit D.J. Moore, and he did not let me down; the top receiver caught just three passes for 32 yards. Darnold nearly got Moore killed on one play, but Moore turned out to be OK. Robby Anderson (1-2) once again was a complete non-factor. Even worse, he spent some time yelling at Darnold on the sideline. So much for that chemistry the two had from their days in New York!

Browns 41, Bengals 16

The Browns made a run late last year after Odell Beckham suffered an injury. They announced Beckham would be waived Monday, which seemed to lift a weight off the team's shoulders. Cleveland was excellent without Beckham versus a competent Cincinnati defense. The team didn't punt until the third quarter, and it averaged 10.7 yards per play in the opening half, establishing a 24-7 lead until the Bengals kicked a field goal heading into the break.

Cleveland dominated in all facets. It hit some big plays, including a Baker Mayfield 60-yard touchdown to Donovan Peoples-Jones, and it also moved the chains well with Nick Chubb runs and catches. The Bengals, meanwhile, allowed the Browns to get out to a 17-point lead because of several mistakes. The first came on the opening drive. Joe Burrow led the team down the field into the red zone on a possession that featured some great, precise passes, but stared down his receiver at the goal line. Denzel Ward jumped the route and ran 101 yards the other way for a pick-six. On the ensuing drive, Burrow should have advanced the sticks with a pass to Samaje Perine, but Perine dropped the ball. The next pass was incomplete on fourth down, though some may argue that pass interference should have been called. Later in the opening half, Ja'Marr Chase lost a fumble near midfield, giving the Browns a free field goal.

It was more of the same for the Bengals following halftime. Burrow heaved a second interception, and Chase later dropped a touchdown. The Browns, meanwhile, continued to be efficient offensively, allowing them to cruise to a 41-16 victory.

Chubb was the best player in this game, rushing for 137 yards and two touchdowns, one of which was a 70-yard sprint that broke the game open in the third quarter. He also caught a pair of passes for 26 receiving yards. Cincinnati's defense had absolutely no answer for him.

With Chubb running wild, and the Bengals self-destructing, Mayfield didn't have to do very much. He threw just 21 passes, completing 14 of them for 218 yards and two touchdowns. It's no coincidence that he looked better without Beckham.

Given that Mayfield didn't throw very much, only one Cleveland player logged more receiving yardage than Chubb. That was Peoples-Jones, who caught two passes for 86 yards and a touchdown.

Going back to the Bengals, Burrow went 28-of-40 for 282 yards and two interceptions. Burrow and the rest of the offense often looked good in between the 20s - Burrow was especially accurate with some impressive throws - but they failed repeatedly in the red zone, and they had the other horrible mistakes that were mentioned earlier.

Chase, who dropped a touchdown and coughed up a fumble, caught six of his 13 targets for 49 yards. Only one Bengal generated more receiving yardage, and that was Tee Higgins (6-78).

Cincinnati's best fantasy player in this contest was easily Joe Mixon. He didn't get to run very much because of the constant deficit, but he picked up 64 yards and two touchdowns on just 13 carries.

Broncos 30, Cowboys 16

The Cowboys had a miserable first half against the Broncos. They failed on fourth down during their first two drives, with Ezekiel Elliott being stuffed and then Dak Prescott skipping a pass to a receiver. Dallas generated just 109 net yards in the opening half, compared to 227 for Denver.

The Broncos' offense, meanwhile, took advantage of some terrible plays from Trevon Diggs. The star

second-year cornerback has been terrific this year, but he was humiliated in this matchup. Denver scored its first touchdown right after Diggs committed pass interference on Courtland Sutton in the end zone. Its second score was a Teddy Bridgewater bomb to Tim Patrick, who torched Diggs. Bridgewater eventually tossed an interception, but the play was negated by a Diggs holding penalty that occurred on the other side of the field.

The Cowboys appeared as though they would turn things around early in the third quarter when the score was 16-0. The defense sacked Bridgewater, forcing a punt. The punt was blocked, but the ball bounced forward and a Dallas player touched it before Denver recovered. This was effectively ruled a muffed punt, allowing Denver to maintain possession and keep full control of the game.

Prescott had a miserable performance in his first game back from injury. He was 19-of-39 for 232 yards, two touchdowns and an interception, and even those stats were enhanced by garbage time. Prescott was just 5-of-14 for 75 yards in the opening half, and both of his scores were thrown very late in the afternoon when the game was decided.

Both of Prescott's touchdowns went to someone named Malik Turner. Both Amari Cooper (2-37) and CeeDee Lamb (2-23) were colossal disappointments, and both had their opportunities, seeing five and nine targets, respectively. Dalton Schultz (4-54) paced the Cowboys in receiving.

Elliott didn't get a chance to run very much because of the constant deficit. He rushed for 51 yards on just 10 carries, and he caught three balls for 25 receiving yards. He missed some action because of a knee contusion, but he eventually returned to action.

The Broncos obviously had more of an opportunity to establish their ground attack. Both Javonte Williams and Melvin Gordon were terrific. Williams tallied 111 yards on 17 carries, while Gordon gained 80 yards and a touchdown on 21 attempts.

Being able to lean on his ground attack, Bridgewater was a clean 19-of-28 for 249 yards and one touchdown. As mentioned earlier, he had an interception negated by a hold that had nothing to do with the play.

Patrick was the Broncos' leading receiver with four catches for 85 yards. Jerry Jeudy registered six catches for 69 yards, while Sutton was limited to only one catch for nine yards, but was able to contribute with that pass interference in the end zone.

Dolphins 17, Texans 9

It was rather easy to identify this as the game between 1-7 teams without knowing their records, as this contest featured a comedy of errors. The Texans made the initial blunder, as Tyrod Taylor, returning from injury, drove down the field, but threw an interception into the end zone when staring down his receiver. There was a wild turn of events after that when Jacoby Brissett, starting for the injured Tua Tagovailoa, heaved an interception late across his body. Taylor was strip-sacked immediately after that, but was ruled down via replay. It didn't matter, however, as Chris Conley dropped a big gain.

The Dolphins had a string of turnovers after that, with Myles Gaskin losing a fumble on his own 33, and then a Miami special-teamer muffing a punt. The Texans could only get field goals off those take-aways, however. It got much worse for the Texans when Taylor carelessly flipped the ball out of bounds. A Dolphins player was waiting right by the sideline to pick off the pass, however, setting up a touchdown on a short field for Miami, which is how it went up 17-6 heading into intermission.

Yes, all of this occurred in the first half alone! Both quarterbacks threw interceptions in the first couple of minutes of the third quarter. The Texans were ultimately able to take over at midfield, but a 33-yard gain was wiped out by a Danny Amendola offensive pass interference. Taylor also missed an open Amendola for a touchdown. Naturally, this game was decided at the end when Houston, with a chance to tie, lost possession because Jordan Akins fumbled the ball.

Taylor was a major disappointment in his return, going 24-of-43 for 240 yards and three interceptions. Brissett wasn't much better; he was 26-of-43 for 244 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

Neither team ran the ball very well. Myles Gaskin was given 20 carries, but he turned those into just 34 yards. Luckily for his fantasy owners, he scored a touchdown on a direct snap. He also caught six passes for 23 receiving yards. The Texans, meanwhile, got 28 yards from Phillip Lindsay on just eight carries.

Jaylen Waddle was the leading receiver in this game, catching eight passes for 83 yards. Mike Gesicki (4-54) made an amazing one-handed catch, but had a disappointing game overall, given how bad Houston has been against tight ends. Mack Hollins (3-22) snatched Brissett's lone touchdown.

As for Houston's receiving corps, Brandin Cooks led the way with six catches for 56 yards. Amendola (3-49) was next on the list.

Falcons 27, Saints 25

The Saints were coming off a big victory against the Buccaneers, but were looking to avoid suffering a letdown against the three-win Falcons. In past years, they could lean on Drew Brees to help carry them to a win, but it was on Trevor Siemian's shoulders in this contest. Siemian actually wasn't a huge liability for the Saints in this contest, as many other players were responsible for the loss.

New Orleans made some blunders throughout the game. For example, Deonte Harris dropped a gain of about 15 yards. Later, the Saints went for it on fourth down during the second quarter, but Adam Trautman committed another drop. On the ensuing possession, the Saints took over at the Atlanta 44-yard line because the Falcons failed miserably themselves on fourth down, but New Orleans' drive actually lost yardage because of a penalty, negating what should've been an easy field goal try.

Defensively, meanwhile, the Saints allowed some big plays. Kyle Pitts dropped a pass of about 40 yards on the opening drive, but then went on to record a 39-yard reception. Olamide Zaccheaus snatched a 49-yard grab, but the biggest gain of the game occurred on the final drive. The Saints came back from down 24-6 to take a 25-24 lead, but the Falcons, with a minute remaining, engineered the game-winning drive when Matt Ryan fired a ball to Cordarrelle Patterson. The former first-rounder was able to tight-rope the sideline somehow for an amazing 64-yard gain. This set up Younghoe Koo's decisive 37-yard field goal.

Ryan was spectacular against a Saints defense that just stymied Tom Brady. He misfired on just seven occasions, going 23-of-30 for 343 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed in a third score. Ryan also had an aforementioned deep drop toward Pitts, so his stats could've been even better.

Both of Ryan's aerial touchdowns went to Zaccheaus, who caught three balls for 58 yards. Patterson led the team in receiving with six grabs for 126 yards, while rushing for 10 yards on nine carries. Russell Gage chipped in with seven catches for 64 yards, while Pitts (3-62) missed out on a huge day because of the drop, as well as Marshon Lattimore's excellent coverage.

Despite Patterson generating just 10 rushing yards, he nearly led the Falcons in rushing. Mike Davis was a disaster with 13 yards on just nine attempts. He was stuffed on a fourth-down try, and he fumbled at the end of the game, but was able to recover the ball.

Alvin Kamara didn't have much success running the ball. He managed 50 yards and a touchdown on 13 attempts, though he had a 30-yard rush negated by a penalty. He also caught four passes for 54 receiving yards. Kamara's largest gain of the day, a 19-yard reception, occurred when Deion Jones whiffed horribly on a tackle attempt. Kamara saw fewer touches with Mark Ingram taking some snaps.

Kamara led the Saints in receiving, with Tre'Quan Smith (3-52) and Harris (6-52) right behind him. Harris drew a deep interference flag in the fourth quarter. Kenny Stills (2-30) and Marquez Callaway (3-25) both caught touchdowns.

Siemian went 25-of-41 for 249 yards and two touchdowns. Again, he didn't hurt the Saints very much, though he wasn't exactly a strength either. His lone mistake was losing a fumble on a blind-side strip-sack, which came after Taysom Hill fired to excellent passes in relief. This lost fumble set up an Atlanta touchdown, but Siemian did a good job of rallying the team to a lead after falling behind 24-6. He left too much time on the clock, however.

Ravens 34, Vikings 31

Ask most football fans, and they'll tell you that the Ravens still have a strong defense. That, however, has not been the case this year. Baltimore has missed a high number of tackles, and that was evident once again in this contest.

The Vikings established a big lead with some huge plays. Kirk Cousins found Justin Jefferson for a 50-yard touchdown to open the game, and then Dalvin Cook burst through for a 66-yard gain to set up another Minnesota score. The Vikings went up 17-3 just prior to halftime, but some more miserable time management allowed the Ravens to score a touchdown in the final seconds before intermission. This would end up making a huge difference when the Ravens made their comeback from yet another two-touchdown deficit in the second half.

The Ravens eventually tied the game on an 18-play, 82-yard drive, which featured a third-and-15 conversion, which Marquise Brown moved the chains via an 18-yard reception on a screen. Baltimore took the lead on the next possession, but the Vikings moved right down the field and scored the tying touchdown, sending this game to overtime. The Vikings, however, made some mistakes in the extra session, including several missed tackles and a 12-men-on-defense penalty, which allowed Baltimore to move in position for the decisive Justin Tucker kick.

Jackson had a great second half. He struggled early when he threw an interception as a result of not seeing the safety. He failed to complete half of his passes prior to intermission, but was 19-of-24 for 201 yards, two touchdowns and a pick in the second half and overtime.

Jackson ultimately finished 27-of-41 for 266 yards, three touchdowns and two picks, one of which was the result of a tipped pass in overtime. He was amazing to close out the game otherwise, showing that he should be considered for MVP if Kyler Murray misses time and the Rams slow down.

Brown had a huge performance against the Harrison Smith-less Minnesota secondary. He caught nine of his 12 targets for 116 yards. Rashod Bateman (5-52) drew a deep interference flag. Jackson's touchdowns went to fullback Patrick Ricard, Devin Duvernay and Devonta Freeman.

Speaking of Freeman, he rushed for 79 yards on 13 carries. Le'Veon Bell saw a bit less work - 11 attempts, 48 yards - but managed to score a touchdown.

Excluding Jackson, the leading rusher in this contest was Cook, who dashed for 110 yards on just 17 carries. He caught three passes as well, but for only 12 receiving yards. Cook was tackled inches shy of the goal line on one play. The officials initially ruled it a touchdown, but replay review overturned it.

Cousins had a nice performance despite the loss, as he went 17-of-28 for 187 yards and two passing touchdowns. He also vultured a rushing score from Cook, leaping into the end zone after Cook's touchdown was overturned.

Jefferson didn't do much following his early 50-yard touchdown. He caught three passes for 69 yards and a score. Tyler Conklin (5-45) was next on the stat sheet. Adam Thielen, meanwhile, hauled in only two balls for six yards, but managed to catch a touchdown.

Giants 23, Raiders 16

The Raiders' season of adversity finally caught up with them this week, and their offense missed former Raider Henry Ruggs in their loss to the Giants. Derek Carr had been phenomenal in recent weeks, but he played poorly in New York. He overthrew a wide open Darren Waller for an easy touchdown in the second quarter, had the uncharacteristic pick-six where he threw late and fired a

second fourth-quarter telegraphed interception. Losing to the 3-6 Giants and falling to 5-3 on the season was a painful loss for the Raiders in the AFC playoff race.

New York took the opening drive down the field into Las Vegas territory before Daniel Jones threw a perfect pass to Evan Engram (3-38-1) for a 30-yard touchdown. Las Vegas responded with Josh Jacobs running well and Carr making a big third-down conversion to Hunter Renfrow (7-49-1) to get inside the 10. To finish the drive, Carr threw a dart to Renfrow, who shook James Bradberry to get open and tie the game. After trading punts, Yannick Ngakoue strip-sacked Jones, and Darius Philon recovered the loose ball to set up a short Las Vegas field goal.

Midway through the second quarter, the Giants put a field goal drive together with a completion to Kenny Golladay (2-28) and 20-yard run by Devontae Booker. Just before halftime, Carr led a field goal drive to give the Raiders a 13-10 lead at intermission.

To open the third quarter, New York's Xavier McKinney undercut a route for an interception and returned it 41 yards for a touchdown. Las Vegas responded with a field drive to make it a 17-16, leaving New York with a one-point lead. The Giants added to their lead thanks to conversions to Golladay and Kadarius Toney (1-9), and a roughing the passer penalty that set up a short field goal for Graham Gano. The Raiders put together a nice drive using Kenyan Drake, but Daniel Carlson missed the 25-yard field goal attempt. After getting the ball back, Xavier McKinney intercepted Carr again at midfield, and that spotted the Giants a field goal to make it 23-16.

Las Vegas had one chance with just over three minutes remaining. Carr moved the ball inside New York's 20-yard line, but Quincy Roche burned Kolton Miller on a speed rush for a blind-side strip-sack that was recovered by the Giants to clinch the victory.

Daniel Jones completed 15-of-20 passes for 110 yards and a touchdown. Booker ran for 99 yards on 21 carries. Carr completed 30-of-46 passes for 296 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions. Josh Jacobs ran for 76 yards on 13 carries and made four receptions for 19 yards. Waller had seven receptions for 92 yards.

Cardinals 31, 49ers 17

Prior to the start of the game, Arizona ruled out quarterback Kyler Murray, and that thrust Colt McCoy on the field without the inactive DeAndre Hopkins and A.J. Green. Those changes didn't matter though, as McCoy was efficient while James Conner dominated the San Francisco defense. The Cardinals cruised to 8-1, while the 49ers are virtually out of the NFC West division race at 3-5.

After trading punts, Byron Murphy stripped George Kittle of the ball to set up Arizona close to midfield. The Cardinals moved down the field before Conner scored from 13 yards out. On the next Arizona drive, a checkdown to Conner went for 21 yards to convert a third-and-18, and an Arik Armstead sack was falsely called a hit to the head to gift the Cardinals a first down. Christian Kirk took a reverse on the very next play and threw the pass for a 33-yard completion to Antoine Wesley to the 1-yard line. Conner then plunged in to the end zone to put the Cardinals up 14-0.

The 49ers got inside the 10-yard line on a completion to Brandon Aiyuk, but he was stripped by Isaiah Simmons, and Jordan Hicks recovered the ball for Arizona. A few plays later, McCoy laid out a 50-yard completion to Kirk to flip the field, but the drive stalled out for a field goal. With just seconds remaining in the first half, Jimmy Garoppolo found Kittle for a touchdown to cut the Cardinals' lead to 17-7 at intermission.

In the second minute of the third quarter, Conner took a screen pass 45 yards for a touchdown, and shortly later, Eno Benjamin powered over Dre Kirkpatrick en route to a 21-yard touchdown run. The 49ers used Kittle to get a first-and-goal, and Garoppolo connected with Aiyuk in the back of end zone for a touchdown to make it 31-14 entering the fourth quarter.

The 49ers would add a field goal in the fourth quarter, but the drive took a ton of time off the clock. Arizona got a few first downs to work the clock, and then the game was clinched when Budda Baker

picked off Garoppolo.

McCoy played extremely well, completing 22-of-26 passes for 249 yards and a touchdown. Conner was superb. He ran for 96 yards and two touchdowns on 21 carries while catching five passes for 77 yards and a score. Kirk (6-91) led Arizona in receiving with Hopkins and Green out.

Garoppolo completed 28-of-40 passes for 326 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. Elijah Mitchell was San Francisco's leading rusher with 36 yards over eight carries. Kittle (6-101-1) and Aiyuk (6-89-1) led the 49ers in receiving.

Chargers 27, Eagles 24

The Chargers began the year with a 4-1 record, but lost their previous two games as a result of Justin Herbert not playing well. Herbert struggled against the blitz-happy Ravens, then had a tough matchup against Bill Belichick's defense. This contest was projected to be much easier for Herbert because the Eagles don't blitz frequently. Herbert managed to rebound, leading his team to victory, thanks to an impressive first half in which his offense scored on every single drive.

This was a close battle throughout, with the Eagles matching the Chargers, point for point. It seemed as though the Chargers would settle for a field goal with two minutes remaining, which was a loser move because the Eagles would have had enough time to kick their own field goal or try for the game-winning touchdown. After trying to draw the Eagles offside, the Chargers used a timeout. They came back from the short break with their offense, however, and Herbert managed to sneak for the first down, the second time he did so on a fourth down during the final possession. Following an Austin Ekeler 16-yard run, the Chargers drilled a 29-yard field goal with two seconds remaining to clinch the victory.

Herbert had an excellent game. In addition to sneaking for the two first downs, he also misfired on just six passes, completing 11 consecutive tosses at one point. Of course, it helped that the Eagles barely blitzed him at all. Herbert had all day to throw on most dropbacks, which makes you wonder what defensive coordinator Jonathan Gannon was thinking. He had a foolish game plan prepared.

Herbert went 32-of-38 for 356 yards and two touchdowns. He barely missed out on a third touchdown on a crazy drive that began on the San Angeles 1-yard line and ended on the Philadelphia 1-yard line without any points. Mike Williams dropped a ball in the end zone, and then Keenan Allen was tackled inches shy of the goal line on that possession.

Speaking of the Charger receivers, Allen had a monster game with 12 catches for 104 yards. Williams, conversely, hauled in just two passes for 58 yards to go along with the dropped touchdown. During the broadcast, CBS color analyst Charles Davis mentioned that Williams is dealing with a knee injury that "no one knows about." Still, Williams made a great play on a 49-yard reception while matched up with Darius Slay.

Herbert's touchdowns didn't go to his primary receivers, but rather his backup tight ends, Donald Parham (3-39) and Stephen Anderson (4-39).

Ekeler didn't have a good fantasy performance despite some heroics on the final drive. He rushed for only 59 yards on 17 carries. He also caught three passes for 23 receiving yards. However, Ekeler came up big when it mattered most, making three key plays on the final possession.

The Eagles, meanwhile, were able to run the ball down the Chargers' throat, as San Angeles' soft run defense was a huge liability once again. Boston Scott was a disappointment with 40 yards on 10 carries. Instead, it was Jordan Howard who had the best performance with 71 yards on 17 attempts. He also scored a touchdown, as did Kenneth Gainwell.

Jalen Hurts also had a big game on the ground. He scrambled 10 times for 62 rushing yards, picking up some key third downs in the process, one of which included a mid-air flip. Passing-wise, Hurts was an economical 11-of-17 for 162 yards and a touchdown. The Chargers were missing their top two

outside cornerbacks, so this was an easy matchup for Hurts. He made some terrific passes, though ball-placement issues hurt him on a couple of occasions, including one toss into the end zone toward DeVonta Smith.

Only four Eagles caught passes: Smith accumulated most of the yardage, catching five passes for 116 yards and a touchdown. Elsewhere, it was Dallas Goedert (3-43), Quez Watkins (2-9) and Jalen Reagor (1 catch, minus-6 yards). Goedert dropped a potential touchdown in the opening quarter.

Chiefs 13, Packers 7

Aaron Rodgers dominated the headlines entering this game, but the biggest story regarding this contest, in my opinion, was the struggles of the Chiefs' offense entering this contest. Kansas City was coming off an embarrassing defeat to the Titans and a near-loss to the Giants, two games that saw them combine for just 23 points.

Kansas City fans had a reason to be optimistic to begin the afternoon, as the Chiefs went right down the field on the opening possession. They put together an 8-minute drive with Patrick Mahomes finding Travis Kelce for a touchdown. All optimism waned after that, however, as the Chiefs scored just six points the rest of the way.

It wasn't just one thing with the Chiefs. They messed up on a fourth-and-1 because of pressure from Rashan Gary. Mecole Hardman dropped several passes, including one that was initially ruled a lost fumble, and another that fell through his hands on third down. Mahomes threw some terrible passes, including one potential interception that was dropped. He overshot Tyreek Hill twice for big gains and fired behind Kelce once. Kelce, meanwhile, committed a drop. FOX analyst Troy Aikman even bashed Andy Reid's play-calling, citing that Reid wasn't running the ball nearly enough.

Kansas City, however, was able to hold on to a 13-0 lead because of the ineptitude of the Packers' offense. That margin was trimmed to 13-7 late in the game, but Mahomes finally came up big with a third-and-long conversion to clinch the victory.

Mahomes went 20-of-37 for only 166 yards and a touchdown. He had some potential big gains negated by drops, but he should've been intercepted, and he fired many inaccurate balls. Mahomes looked frustrated for most of the afternoon.

Kelce, who caught the touchdown, led the Chiefs in receiving with five catches for 68 yards. Hill (4-37) was a major disappointment, as was Hardman (3-20), though Hill, unlike Hardman, was not responsible for his poor numbers.

Darrel Williams picked up chunks of yardage whenever he was handed the ball, gaining 70 yards on 19 carries. However, he missed out on some touchdown chances when he was stuffed at the goal line on three occasions.

As for the Packers, their stagnant offense was led by No Cookie Jordan Love. The 2020 first-round pick was horrific in his first start. He heaved so many inaccurate passes, including some missed easy throws. He was lucky he was only intercepted once, as he heaved a pass very late over the middle to Randall Cobb on one occasion. He failed to connect with open receivers constantly, and he had to use a timeout just before halftime to avoid a delay-of-game penalty. This was when Aikman said, "He's a little out of sorts right now." That was a nice way to describe Love's play. I take notes during the games, and I wrote this about Love: "His passes are all over the place."

Love did marginally better in the second half, and he even threw a touchdown to Allen Lazard, who beat the anemic Daniel Sorensen. He finished 19-of-34 for 190 yards, one touchdown and an interception, which was an inaccurate toss toward Davante Adams. Packer fans can only imagine where their team would be right now had the front office used the Love pick on Chase Claypool, Michael Pittman Jr. or Tee Higgins.

Adams had a glimpse of his post-Rodgers life with six catches for 42 yards despite seeing 14 targets.

He also drew an interference flag. Cobb (3-50) led the Packers in receiving.

Aaron Jones had some nice runs, though a 15-yard gain of his was wiped out by a hold. He finished with 53 yards on 12 carries. A.J. Dillon (8-46) also had a strong running performance.

This game was decided by two field goals. Mason Crosby happened to whiff on two field goals. However, it was the holder who was responsible because he the laces were facing Crosby on both occasions. Crosby was not happy with this on the sideline.

Titans 28, Rams 16

Many eulogized the Titans in the wake of Derrick Henry's injury. Certainly, no one gave them a chance to win this game, as they were touchdown-plus underdogs with plenty of public money coming in on the Rams. However, the reports of their demise were an exaggeration, as Tennessee dominated this game with its terrific defense.

Matthew Stafford entered this game with some missed practices due to a back injury, and he can't be feeling better after how the Titans treated him. Tennessee overwhelmed the Rams' offensive line, swarming Stafford in the pocket. Stafford was sacked on five occasions, with Jeffery Simmons recording three in the first half alone. On a pressure play that did not involve a sack, Simmons broke through to Stafford near the Rams' end zone. Stafford spun around in the grasp and heaved an interception. It was nearly a pick-six, but the Titans converted a touchdown when Ryan Tannehill found Geoff Swaim in the end zone.

Stafford wasn't finished committing turnovers. On the ensuing drive, he heaved another interception, with this one being a pick-six, as Kevin Byard jumped the route to give the Titans a 14-3 lead. The Rams continued to struggle offensively throughout the night. They did a bit better in the second half when they got Stafford out of the pocket, but all they could muster were two field goals before a very late touchdown.

Stafford's numbers don't look too bad. He went 31-of-48 for 294 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. However, much of that occurred in garbage time. Stafford, at halftime, was just 9-of-16 for 62 yards and the pair of picks.

Despite Stafford's struggles, his two primary receivers still posted quality stats. Robert Woods (7-98) barely edged out Cooper Kupp (11-95). Meanwhile, Tyler Higbee (5-51) appeared to score a touchdown, but it was overturned by replay review because he barely stepped out of bounds. Van Jefferson (3-41) also missed out on a touchdown with a drop in the end zone.

With his team in a deficit throughout the evening, Darrell Henderson was able to run just 11 times. He picked up 55 yards on those attempts. He also caught three passes, but registered just three receiving yards.

Henderson would out gain all the Tennessee rushers. Adrian Peterson got the start, but mustered just 21 yards on 10 carries, though he scored a touchdown. D'Onta Foreman (5-29) looked better, as did Jeremy McNichols (7-24).

Tannehill did a good job of managing the game outside of an early interception. He misfired just eight times, going 19-of-27 for 143 yards, one touchdown and the pick. He also scrambled four a touchdown on one of his patented bootleg runs.

A.J. Brown dropped an early third-down pass, but played better the rest of the way. He paced the Titans in receiving with five catches for 42 yards. Julio Jones (4-35) was next on the stat sheet. He and Tannehill connected on a big third-and-10 play in the second half to move the chains.

Steelers 29, Bears 27

There are many people whose opinions I respect who stated that this was the worst-officiated game they had ever seen in their lives. I've seen some many stinkers in my life, including some from the woefully inept Walt Coleman, but this is certainly up there in that category.

The officials seemingly did everything in their power to decide this game. At first, the Bears were just kicking themselves in the foot with procedural penalties. For instance, an illegal formation negated a significant early gain to Allen Robinson, while an ineligible man downfield ruined a 20-yard reception. Jimmy Graham also dropped a touchdown, while a Chicago player fumbled a kickoff return. The refs, as bad as they were, were not responsible for all of Chicago's ineptitude.

However, things changed in the red zone during one sequence. The Bears, aiming to draw to within four, scored a touchdown when Justin Fields found Graham in the end zone. However, an illegal low block negated the flag even though the blocker never engaged with the defensive player. Two plays later, a Steeler player hit Fields late and no flag was thrown even though the officials penalized the Bears earlier for a ticky-tack roughing-the-passer on some light Ben Roethlisberger contact.

The greatest offense by the officials occurred when the Bears seemingly forced a punt in the fourth quarter. Cassius Marsh sacked Roethlisberger on third down, but Marsh was flagged for taunting even though he only stared at Pittsburgh's bench. He didn't even say anything. Yet, the flag was thrown, and the Steelers were allowed to continue their drive. It didn't seem to matter in the short term because another sack on Big Ben finally forced the Steelers to give up the ball, albeit after a successful FG. Chicago fans must have been shocked that another roughing penalty wasn't called.

Fields took over in worse field position than initially anticipated, but he had more than two minutes and a single timeout in his back pocket. Fields didn't even need the timeout, as he went down the field rather easily versus Pittsburgh. He hit Allen Robinson with a 39-yard bomb and then drilled Darnell "Mad-Eye" Mooney in the end zone for the go-ahead touchdown.

The Bears had a 27-26 lead, but left too much time on the clock. There was 1:46 remaining, which was more than enough time for the Steelers. Aided by more Chicago penalties, Roethlisberger drove into field goal range, hitting Diontae Johnson for a 22-yard gain to get there. Chris Boswell drilled a 40-yard field goal to give Pittsburgh a sure victory with 26 seconds remaining.

Fields, however, did what he could with those 26 seconds, masterfully moving across midfield in that limited amount of time. He could have done more, however, if he possessed the timeouts his team didn't need to waste following the bogus Marsh infraction. A Cairo Santos 65-yard field goal was well short, allowing Pittsburgh to hang on to the victory.

It's a shame for Fields that the Bears lost this game because he was incredible. Staring down one of the top defenses in the NFL, Fields went 12-of-18 for 228 yards and a touchdown after halftime, as Pittsburgh had no answer for him as the evening progressed. Fields began slowly, which is why his overall numbers aren't as impressive - 17-of-29, 291 yards, one touchdown, one interception on odd deflection; eight scrambles, 45 rushing yards - but his evolution is taking place before our very eyes. The rookie who self-destructed versus the Browns and Buccaneers seems like a distant memory.

Given that Fields took a big step forward this week, it wasn't a surprise that he developed more of a connection with Robinson, who caught four passes for 68 yards. He finished just below Cole Kmet (6-87) on the receiving list, while Mooney logged three receptions for 41 yards and two scores 1 rushing.

David Montgomery made his return to action and had some nice runs in this difficult matchup. He gained 63 yards on 13 carries. He also caught two passes for 17 receiving yards.

Montgomery barely outgained Najee Harris on the ground, as Chicago's defense played better versus the run this week. Chicago limited Harris to just 62 yards on 22 attempts, though Harris scored a touchdown. Harris also caught three passes, but for only 16 receiving yards.

Roethlisberger enjoyed a rare positive performance this season, going 21-of-30 for 205 yards and two touchdowns. He connected on some deep passes, with Diontae Johnson (5-56) being his leading receiver. Pat Freiermuth (5-43) caught both of his scores.

Elsewhere in the Steeler receiving corps, James Washington had one of those deep gains, a 42-yarder. Chase Claypool (3-30) left the game early with an injury.

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Tampa Bay - 9½ Over WASHINGTON by 17

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers come into this one rested off of their bye week after a 36-27 loss to New Orleans in their last game. Tom Brady has thrown for 2,650 yards, 25 touchdowns and 5 interceptions on 67.3% passing while Leonard Fournette leads the Bucs with 439 rushing yards and 4 touchdowns this season. Chris Godwin leads Tampa's receiving group with 50 catches for 660 yards and 4 touchdowns and Mike Evans has 544 receiving yards and a team-high 5 TDs while Antonio Brown's got 418 receiving yards and 4 scores of his own this season. Leonard Fournette has 239 receiving yards while another five Tampa Bay receivers have at least 100 receiving yards as well this season. On defense, Devin White leads the Bucs with 61 total tackles while Shaquil Barrett has a team-high 5.5 sacks and Jamel Dean has a pair of interceptions for Tampa Bay this season.

The Washington Football Team will try to bounce back from a 17-10 loss at the hands of the Denver Broncos in their last game following their bye week as well. Taylor Heinicke has thrown for 1,928 yards, 11 touchdowns and 9 interceptions on 63.9% passing while Antonio Gibson leads the Washington ground attack with 442 rushing yards and 3 TDs this season. Terry McLaurin leads Washington's receivers with 43 grabs for 573 yards and 4 scores while J.D. McKissic has 332 receiving yards. A pair of Washington receivers have 200+ receiving yards and another three have at least 100 receiving yards as well this season. On defense, Cole Holcomb leads Washington with 73 total tackles while Jonathan Allen has a team-high 6 sacks and Montez Sweat has 4 sacks of his own this season.

Tampa Bay is 0-4 ATS in their last 4 road games and 5-1 ATS in their last 6 games following a loss while the over is 23-8 in their last 31 games against the NFC. Washington is 0-4 ATS in their last 4 games overall and 0-4 ATS in their last 4 home games while the under is 10-2 in their last 12 games against a team with a winning record.

The Washington Football Team just can't seem to get their footing and I've said it before and I'll say it again, it's the perils of having Taylor Heinicke as your starting QB. Even if and when Ryan Fitzpatrick comes back, I'm not sure he's the answer as the defense for Washington hasn't been what it was last season. Tampa Bay has had their ups and downs lately, but they've still got a rock solid defense and a really good offense that can take advantage of the WFT and their inept defense this season.

Give me Tampa Bay and lay the points here.

Projected Score: Tampa Bay 34, Washington 17

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Atlanta at Dallas Over 53½ by 9½

The Atlanta Falcons come into this one looking to build on their 27-25 upset win over New Orleans in their last game. Matt Ryan has thrown for 2,157 yards, 15 touchdowns and 6 interceptions on 69.4% passing while Cordarrelle Patterson leads Atlanta in rushing with 278 rushing yards and Mike Davis has 271 rushing yards as well. Kyle Pitts leads the Falcons in receiving with 546 receiving yards while Patterson has a team-high 38 grabs for 459 receiving yards and 5 TDs. Another five Falcons have at least 100 receiving yards as well on the year. On defense, Foyesade Oluokun has a team-high 77 total tackles while Deion Jones, Dante Fowler Jr. and Jacob Tuioti-Mariner each have a pair of sacks this season.

The Dallas Cowboys will look to bounce back from a 30-16 loss at the hands of the Denver Broncos last time out. Dak Prescott has thrown for 2,045 yards, 18 touchdowns and 5 interceptions on 69.4% passing while Ezekiel Elliott has a team-high 622 rushing yards with 5 scores and Tony Pollard has 403 rushing yards as well on the year. CeeDee Lamb leads Dallas' receiving group with 41 grabs for

632 yards and 4 touchdowns while Amari Cooper has 532 receiving yards and a team-high 5 touchdowns on 40 catches. Dalton Schultz has 37 grabs for 424 yards and Cedrick Wilson has 280 receiving yards with both Schultz and Wilson each recording 3 TDs this season. On defense, Jayron Kearse leads the Cowboys with 54 total tackles while Trevon Diggs has 7 interceptions with a pair of pick-sixes and Micah Parsons and Randy Gregory each have a team-high 5 sacks on the year.

Atlanta is 11-5 ATS in their last 16 road games and 2-5 ATS in their last 7 games against the NFC. Dallas is 7-1 ATS in their last 8 games overall and 0-4 ATS in their last 4 games following a double-digit loss at home.

The Falcons got a nice win last time out to fire themselves back into the wild card race while Dallas fell to a Denver team that, let's be honest, they were probably looking past. With that said, these are two teams that can hang points on the board in bunches and I think there's some offensive fireworks brewing here. This is backed by the fact that Atlanta has gone over 4-1 in their last 5 games overall. Dallas has gone over 8-2 in their last 10 games as a home favorite. **Take Over 53½.**

Projected Score: Dallas 36, Atlanta 27

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

PITTSBURGH - 9 Over Detroit by 17

Detroit is coming off a bye this past weekend. The Lions last appeared in a blowout loss to the Eagles. As for the Steelers, they played the Bears in a Monday night game. In that matchup, Pittsburgh was able to eke out a tense win.

Detroit hasn't been able to find any success this year so far, losing their first eight straight games. The Lions have fallen to the 49ers, the Packers, the Ravens, the Bears, the Vikings, the Bengals, the Rams and the Eagles in succession.

In the 44-6 loss to the Eagles on Halloween, the Lions coughed up 21 points in the third quarter and couldn't find the scoreboard themselves until the fourth. QB Jared Goff put up 222 yards on 25-of-34 passing, and D'Andre Swift led a tepid rush on 27 yards from 12 carries.

Over on the Steelers' side, they beat the Bills in their first game this year, but then fell to the Raiders, Bengals and Packers over the next three. Pittsburgh then got it rolling with wins over the Broncos, Seahawks (OT) and Browns.

In the Monday night game versus Chicago, the Steelers coughed up 21 points in the fourth quarter but were still able to hang on in a 29-27 victory. QB Ben Roethlisberger put up 205 yards with two scores on 21-of-30 passing, and Pat Freiermuth put up 43 yards and two scores from five catches.

The Lions are 5-0 ATS in their last five after an ATS loss and 5-2 ATS in their last seven in Week 10. Detroit is 3-12-1 ATS in their last 16 in November and 1-4 ATS in their last five on grass.

Meanwhile, the Steelers are 2-5 ATS in the last seven games on grass and the under is 8-2-1 in their last 11 as a favorite. The under is 6-2-1 in Pittsburgh's last nine in Week 10 as well.

The Monday night game was a mess in the fourth quarter. Pittsburgh missed a ton of big opportunities and were aided by some crucial penalties in a crazy game. Still, it'll go down as a win.

As for Detroit, they couldn't do anything against Philly in their last outing, giving up 350 total yards with 27 first downs and 5.6 yards per play. The Lions responded with just 228 yards of offense themselves, 3.9 yards per play and eight penalties. Detroit will have had two weeks to prepare for the Steelers, but I don't think it'll matter. Other than the 4th quarter in the MNF game, the Steelers have been getting better every week.

Projected Score: Pittsburgh 31, Detroit 14

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Philadelphia at DENVER Under 45 By 8

The Philadelphia Eagles come into this game looking to shake off a narrow 27-24 loss to the Los Angeles Chargers in their last game. Jalen Hurts has thrown for 1,981 yards, 11 touchdowns and 4 interceptions on 61.5% passing while also leading the Eagles in rushing with 494 rushing yards and 5 TDs. DeVonta Smith leads the Eagles in receiving with 537 receiving yards and a pair of touchdowns while Dallas Goedert has 401 receiving yards and Quez Watkins has 375 receiving yards as well this season. On defense, Alex Singleton leads the Eagles with 83 total tackles while Javon Hargrave has a team-high 6 sacks and Josh Sweat has 3.5 sacks as well on the year.

The Denver Broncos will be out to build on their 30-16 upset win over Dallas in their last game. Teddy Bridgewater has thrown for 2,163 yards, 14 touchdowns and 5 interceptions on 70.2% passing while Melvin Gordon III leads the Broncos with 477 rushing yards and 4 scores and Javonte Williams has 466 rushing yards as well this season. Courtland Sutton leads Denver's receivers with 41 grabs for 588 yards and a pair of scores while Tim Patrick has 509 receiving yards with 4 TDs and Noah Fant has 320 receiving yards with 3 TDs as well this season. Another five receivers for Denver have at least 100 receiving yards as well this season. On defense, Kareem Jackson leads the Broncos with 59 total tackles while Malik Reed has 4 sacks and Justin Simmons has 3 interceptions for the Bronco defense this season.

Philadelphia is 3-8 ATS in their last 11 road games and 2-5 ATS in their last 7 games as a road underdog Denver is 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games against a team with a losing record and 4-10-1 ATS in their last 15 games as a home favorite.

Philadelphia just has no idea what kind of team they want to be on offense while the Broncos just can't get the offense going and are a defense-first team as it is. I think this is going to be a similar game to what we've seen from Denver lately, like a first to 20 wins kind of game.

The Eagles flew under fourteen times in their last 17 November games. The Broncos ran under seven times in their last nine games overall. It may seem like a fairly obvious play here, but I'm going to **take the under 45.**

Projected Score: Denver 20, Philadelphia 17

THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
CFB	Pittsburgh U 75	Iowa - 6	Purdue + 20	So Carolina + 2	LSU + 2½
NFL	Tampa Bay - 9½	Dallas Ov 53½	Pittsburgh - 9	Denver Un 45	

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