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OLE MISS ON UPSET ALERT AZTECS GROUND THE FALCONS UTSA SCHOOLS THE BULLDOGS

NCAA Landscape

Iowa went down at home to un-ranked Purdue, Alabama bounced back, Georgia continued to dominate, and the ending to the Ole Miss–Tennessee game put all of Knoxville on tilt.

Oklahoma is back in the Heisman conversation if Caleb Williams sustains this level of play. Williams just had one of the best starting debuts we've ever seen. He earned an elite QB grade for the game and guided Lincoln Riley's offense to 0.41 expected points added (EPA) per play against TCU, the Sooners' highest single-game mark against an FBS opponent since Week 6 of the 2019 season when they thrashed Kansas 45-20.

The true freshman quarterback didn't record a single-quarterback fault incompleting and went an astounding 10-of-14 for 202 yards and four touchdowns on passes thrown 10 or more yards downfield. He also broke five tackles and busted off two 20-yard runs on six designed QB runs. This was one of the most impressive performances by any collegiate player in recent memory. If Williams continues to play at this level, Oklahoma will soon return to the national title conversation.

Iowa failed to adapt on defense, and it cost them against Purdue. No. 2 Iowa went down at home to unranked Purdue. The Hawkeyes entered this contest as double-digit favorites at home, but this game screamed trap right from the get-go. The Hawkeyes were to be without starting corner Riley Moss, who had teamed up with fellow corner Matt Hankins to earn the highest PFF grade among outside cornerback duos in college football, which was always going to be a problem given their inefficient offense — even against the Boilermakers. And sure enough, Moss' absence was felt all game while the offense continued to struggle, but they weren't the only things working against the No. 2 ranked team in the country. In the end, it was Iowa's inability to adapt on defense that truly cost them. Purdue struggled on first down all game. They reached the first-down marker on only four of their 32 first-down plays against Iowa and ranked 35th in the Power Five in first-down efficiency. Still, when the Boilermakers found themselves in a short-yardage situation, the Hawkeyes stuck to their standard off-zone coverage. So, of course, Purdue took what Iowa handed them on those plays scenarios, exploiting the underneath passing game and the holes in the zone coverage downfield. It was a masterful game plan from the Boilermakers, and it showed how difficult it is for a team with no offense to string together an undefeated campaign.

Another week, another dominant performance from Georgia's defense. Georgia got one of the nation's top rushing attacks in Week 7, and they chewed them up and spat them out. Kentucky's 54.8% successful run rate on running back carries entering Week 7 ranked first in the Power Five.

But against the Dawgs in Athens, the Wildcats turned in a 17.6% successful run rate on running back carries. Georgia limited the opposition to 0.1 yards before contact per attempt; they didn't allow a single explosive run of 10 or more yards and five of their 16 running back runs resulted in no gain or a loss of yardage. Kentucky then found themselves in a situation where they had to throw the ball over 80% of the time, and most of those throws were quick and around the line of scrimmage because this Georgia refuses to get beaten downfield.

Bama's Bryce Young is handling the pass-protection problem like a seasoned vet. Alabama has a pass-protection problem. The Tide's offensive line is third-to-last in the SEC and 54th in the Power Five in pressure rate allowed for the 2021 season. Against Mississippi State on Saturday, quarterback Bryce Young was under pressure for over 44% of his total drop backs. Fortunately for the Crimson Tide, Young handled the heat with ease. He completed 6-of-10 pressured passes for 135 yards and two scores en route to an 88.1 passing grade, and he took both of his scrambles for a gain of 10-plus yards. This issue isn't necessarily all on the offensive line losing one-on-one. The Tide are allowing a lot of free rushers, and some of that falls on the offensive coaching staff. This season, Alabama's 19 unblocked pressures are tied for the sixth-most in the Power Five and 12 more than they allowed in all of 2020. Now, could the one-on-one pass-blocking from the offensive line also improve? Certainly. Only left tackle Evan Neal and right guard Emil Ekiyor Jr. have a true pass set grade above 50.0 for the season. Both the players and the coaches have some work to do before that likely SEC Championship showdown in early December. Knowing Saban, I'm sure they'll peak by then.

Texas imploded, and Oklahoma State rebounded. Texas' scripted offense was as good as expected this weekend, as they generated 0.18 EPA per play in the first quarter against the Pokes and got out to an early 10- lead. After that, they imploded. Texas generated -0.7 EPA per play in the final three quarters of action, and quarterback Casey Thompson went from an 83.6 passing grade after the first quarter to a 27.2 mark in the final three. The Longhorns quarterback threw a red-zone pick-six in the second quarter to swing Texas' win probability from 85.9% to 65.7%, and he pieced together only one explosive pass play in those final three quarters. Texas still held onto a comfortable 24-13 lead in the middle of the third, but that was largely thanks to Oklahoma State's poor offense. That pick-six and a slew of penalties — 10 in total for the game for Texas — kept the Pokes in the game and gave them an opportunity to rebound in the fourth quarter. Oklahoma State had the fourth-least efficient Power Five offense of Week 7 in the first three quarters of the game and struggled to move the ball on early downs, which was no different from the team everyone had seen up until this point of the 2021 season. But in Quarter 4, Texas surrendered against the run, and offensive coordinator and play caller Kasey Dunn got a little bit more creative. They then jumped to the ninth-most efficient offense in the Power Five for the final quarter of play. Texas let off the gas, and Oklahoma State stepped on it.

The 2022 NFL Draft quarterback class continues to be a roller coaster. The potential within the 2022 quarterback class was once seemingly limitless, but it has slowly turned into an almost disastrous situation as the year has gone on.

From Spencer Rattler being benched to Sam Howell struggling without his elite supporting cast, nearly every quarterback had been a faller on draft boards. The lone wolf who hadn't been falling as much was Liberty quarterback Malik Willis, who entered Week 7 as the highest-graded quarterback in the country, but that may no longer be the case after he dropped the ball against UL-Monroe on Saturday night. Willis led the Flames to a loss against the 124th-ranked team in Power Rankings as 32.5-point favorites. He earned a 34.4 passing grade on the night after recording four turnover-worthy plays. Willis was the same dangerous player in the ground game, with 11 broken tackles and seven explosive runs of 10-plus yards.

Ole Miss Quarterback Matt Corral is seemingly the only passer in the trending-up category. He played well within the structure of Lane Kiffin's offense and earned an elite 90.2 passing grade from a clean pocket on first review. Oh, and don't forget what he did to the Vols on the ground, as he busted off nine runs of 10-plus yards on 23 attempts (14 designed, nine scrambles). Corral holds a 92.0 grade for the season and will likely be rising up draft boards.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

TEXAS TECH - PK Over Kansas St by 10

The Kansas State Wildcats need a win to snap a three-game losing streak. The Texas Tech Red Raiders look for a win after splitting their last four games.

The Kansas State Wildcats have lost four straight road games. Skylar Thompson is completing 68.3 percent of his passes for 766 yards, five touchdowns and three interceptions. Phillip Brooks and Deuce Vaughn have combined for 513 receiving yards and four touchdowns, while Malik Knowles has 17 receptions. The Kansas State Wildcats ground game is averaging 162.5 yards per contest, and Vaughn leads the way with 531 yards and five touchdowns. Defensively, Kansas State is allowing 24.7 points and 355.2 yards per game. Daniel Green leads the Kansas State Wildcats with 34 tackles, Felix Anudike-Uzomah has two sacks and Russ Yeast has one interception.

The Texas Tech Red Raiders have won five of their last seven home games. Henry Colomby is completing 65.5 percent of his passes for 1,066 yards, four touchdowns and three interceptions. Erik Ezukanma and Kaylon Geiger have combined for 938 receiving yards and two touchdowns, while Myles Price has 15 receptions. The Texas Tech Red Raiders ground game is averaging 168.6 yards per contest, and SaRodrick Thompson leads the way with 314 yards and six touchdowns. Defensively, Texas Tech is allowing 31.4 points and 386.4 yards per game. Colin Schooler leads the Texas Tech Red Raiders with 57 tackles, Jaylon Hutchings has three sacks and Dadrion Taylor-Demerson has two interceptions.

The Wildcats are 9-4 ATS in their last 13 road games and 13-6 ATS in their last 19 conference games. The Red Raiders are 2-5 ATS in their last 7 games as a favorite and 1-4 ATS in their last 5 games as a home favorite. The over is 4-0 in Wildcats last 4 games overall. The under is 6-1-1 in Red Raiders last 8 games as a favorite. The Wildcats are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings in Texas Tech and 4-0 ATS in their last 4 meetings.

The Kansas State Wildcats are starting to watch their season fall apart with three straight losses, and the offense has now dropped to 99th in total offense. The Texas Tech Red Raiders have been hit or miss this season, but they've shown more flashes overall, and they're 21st in passing offense and 25th in scoring offense. Kansas State has won five straight games against Texas Tech and nine of the last 10 meetings overall, but **this seems like a spot the Red Raiders can finally snap the trend.**
Projected Score: Texas Tech 37, Kansas St. 27

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

Maryland + 6½ Over MINNESOTA by 3

The Maryland Terrapins need a win to rebound from back-to-back losses. The Minnesota Golden Gophers look for a win after winning four of their last five games.

The Maryland Terrapins have lost three of their last five road games. Taulia Tagovailoa is completing 72.1 percent of his passes for 1,776 yards, 14 touchdowns and eight interceptions. Dontay Demus Jr. and Rakim Jarrett have combined for 826 receiving yards and eight touchdowns, while Jeshaun Jones has 18 receptions. The Maryland Terrapins ground game is averaging 136.2 yards per contest, and Tayon Fleet-Davis leads the way with 338 yards and four touchdowns. Defensively, Maryland is allowing 29 points and 381.7 yards per game. Jordan Mosley leads the Maryland Terrapins with 29 tackles, Sam Okuayinonu has five sacks and Nick Cross has two interceptions.

The Minnesota Golden Gophers have split their last four home games. Tanner Morgan is completing 58.8 percent of his passes for 918 yards, six touchdowns and four interceptions. Chris Autman-Bell and Mike Brown-Stephens have combined for 428 receiving yards and three touchdowns, while Dylan

Wright has 11 receptions. The Minnesota Golden Gophers ground game is averaging 191.7 yards per contest, and Treyson Potts leads the way with 552 yards and six touchdowns. Defensively, Minnesota is allowing 20.2 points and 319.3 yards per game. Jack Gibbens leads the Minnesota Golden Gophers with 38 tackles, Boye Mafe has five sacks and Tyler Nubin has two interceptions.

The Terrapins are 7-21 ATS in their last 28 road games and 1-4 ATS in their last 5 games in October. The Golden Gophers are 2-5-1 ATS in their last 8 home games and 6-2-1 ATS in their last 9 games overall. The under is 9-4 in Terrapins last 13 games overall. The over is 8-2 in Golden Gophers last 10 home games. The over is 4-0 in the last 4 meetings.

The Minnesota Golden Gophers aren't nearly as good as they've been in years past, and their inconsistent offense has allowed average to below average teams to hang around. The Maryland Terrapins have had an extra week to prepare for this game, and they bring in a top-20 pass offense to test a Minnesota secondary that's struggled at times. Maryland can certainly hang around in this game with a bounce back performance from Tagovailoa. **Give me the road dog or road terps.**

Projected Score: Maryland 27, Minnesota 24

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

L.S.U. + 11½ Over MISSISSIPPI by 1

The LSU Tigers look for a win after winning four of their last six games. The Ole Miss Rebels look for a win to build on their solid 5-1 record.

The LSU Tigers have lost five of their last eight road games. Max Johnson is completing 61.3 percent of his passes for 1,863 yards, 20 touchdowns and four interceptions. Kayshon Boutte and Jack Bech have combined for 801 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns, while Brian Thomas Jr. has 16 receptions. The LSU Tigers ground game is averaging 117.4 yards per contest, and Tyrion Davis-Price leads the way with 574 yards and five touchdowns. Defensively, LSU is allowing 28.4 points and 401.6 yards per game. Damone Clark leads the LSU Tigers with 80 tackles, BJ Ojulari has six sacks and Eli Ricks has one interception.

The Ole Miss Rebels have won five straight home games. Matt Corral is completing 66.3 percent of his passes for 1,728 yards, 14 touchdowns and one interception. Dontario Drummond and Braylon Sanders have combined for 835 receiving yards and nine touchdowns, while Jonathan Mingo has 15 receptions. The Ole Miss Rebels ground game is averaging 262.8 yards per contest, and Corral leads the way with 450 yards and eight touchdowns. Defensively, Ole Miss is allowing 30.2 points and 438 yards per game. Chance Campbell leads the Ole Miss Rebels with 46 tackles, Sam Williams has 6.5 sacks and Keidron Smith has two interceptions.

The Tigers are 11-5 ATS in their last 16 road games and 11-4 ATS in their last 15 games as an underdog. The Rebels are 3-1-1 ATS in their last 5 games as a favorite and 1-4 ATS in their last 5 conference games. The over is 7-3 in Tigers last 10 games overall. The over is 7-3 in Rebels last 10 home games.

The Ole Miss Rebels are the better team here and their offense is capable of producing blowouts, but they struggle defensively and find themselves in shootouts a lot. The LSU Tigers are coming off their biggest win of the season, and now players have a chance to rally behind coach Ed Orgeron after it was reported this will be his last season. This is a lot of points to swallow and the Tigers are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings. **I'm taking the boatload of points and LSU on the road in what should be a high scoring game.**

Projected Score: L.S.U. 38, Mississippi 37

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

UTSA - 6 Over LA TECH by 13

The UTSA Roadrunners look for a win to build on their 7-0 record. The Louisiana Tech Bulldogs need a win after losing three of their last four games.

The UTSA Roadrunners have won four straight road games. Frank Harris is completing 69.2 percent of his passes for 1,600 yards, 14 touchdowns and three interceptions. Joshua Cephus and Zakhari Franklin have combined for 974 receiving yards and nine touchdowns, while De'Corian Clark has 27 receptions. The UTSA Roadrunners ground game is averaging 180 yards per contest, and Sincere McCormick leads the way with 778 yards and six touchdowns. Defensively, UTSA is allowing 19.1 points and 323.3 yards per game. Rashad Wisdom leads the UTSA Roadrunners with 44 tackles, Trumane Bell II has 3.5 sacks and Corey Mayfield Jr. has two interceptions.

The Louisiana Tech Bulldogs have won two of their last three home games. Austin Kendall is completing 59.5 percent of his passes for 1,342 yards, 10 touchdowns and eight interceptions. Smoke Harris and Tre Harris have combined for 563 receiving yards and four touchdowns while Bub Means has 14 receptions. The Louisiana Tech Bulldogs ground game is averaging 123.8 yards per contest, and Marcus Williams Jr. leads the way with 359 yards and two touchdowns. Defensively, Louisiana Tech is allowing 31 points and 457.3 yards per game. Trey Baldwin leads the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs with 51 tackles, Levi Bell has three sacks and BeeJay Williamson has two interceptions.

The Roadrunners are 10-2 ATS in their last 12 road games and 8-1 ATS in their last 9 games overall. The Bulldogs are 2-5 ATS in their last 7 games in October and 2-5 ATS in their last 7 conference games. The under is 12-3-1 in Roadrunners last 16 games overall. The over is 7-3 in Bulldogs last 10 games overall. The over is 4-1 in the last 5 meetings in Louisiana Tech.

The UTSA Roadrunners are not only undefeated on the season, but they've been covering machines as well. It's to the point you blindly back UTSA until the tickets stop cashing. The Louisiana Tech Bulldogs aren't a good football team, especially on the defensive side, where they're ranked 118th in total defense and 99th in scoring defense. Two teams heading in different directions. **I'll gladly lay the touchdown with the Roadrunners on the road.**

Projected Score: UTSA 36, LA Tech 23

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

San Diego St. + 4½ Over AIR FORCE by 7

The San Diego State Aztecs look for another win to improve to 7-0 on the season. The Air Force Falcons look to build on their four-game winning streak.

The San Diego State Aztecs have split their last six road games. Jordon Brookshire is completing 47.6 percent of his passes for 521 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Daniel Bellinger and BJ Busbee have combined for 312 receiving yards and one touchdown, while Jesse Matthews has 11 receptions. The San Diego State Aztecs ground game is averaging 212.8 yards per contest, and Greg Bell leads the way with 561 yards and five touchdowns. Defensively, San Diego State is allowing 16 points and 282.8 yards per game. Patrick McMorris leads the San Diego State Aztecs with 40 tackles, Caden McDonald has 3.5 sacks and Tayler Hawkins has two interceptions.

The Air Force Falcons have won three of their last four home games. Haaziq Daniels is completing 47.9 percent of his passes for 553 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Micah Davis and Brandon Lewis have combined for 436 receiving yards and two touchdowns, while Kyle Patterson has three receptions. The Air Force Falcons ground game is averaging 336.4 yards per contest, and Brad

Roberts leads the way with 818 yards and eight touchdowns. Defensively, Air Force is allowing 16.3 points and 288.9 yards per game. Vince Sanford leads the Air Force Falcons with 31 tackles, Demonte Meeks has 3.5 sacks and Corvan Taylor has three interceptions.



The Aztecs are 6-2 ATS in their last 8 games in October and 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games overall. The Falcons are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games as a favorite and 4-0 ATS in their last 4 games overall. The under is 37-16-2 in Aztecs last 55 games overall. The under is 12-3 in Falcons last 15 games overall.

The Air Force Falcons are a good football team and will finally get a chance to prove it against a respectable opponent on national TV. However, Air Force isn't good enough for me to leave free points on the table with San Diego State. The San Diego State Aztecs are the more proven team and has a physical edge in the trenches. Also, while Air Force is the best rushing offense in the country, San Diego State is the best rushing defense. Something has to give, right? The Aztecs are 4-0 ATS in their last 4 meetings in Air Force and 7-2 ATS in their last 9 meetings. So, they've downed the Falcons quire regularly. **Give me the points and the Aztecs in what should be a ground battle and a low scoring game.**

Projected Score: San Diego St. 23, Air Force 16



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October 24th – 31st
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THERE AIN'T NO GOLD IN DEM DAR HILLS ANYMORE AS COLTS STAMPEDE OVER FORTY NINERS

NFL Landscape

The Ravens are special: You already knew Lamar Jackson was good and that only the most moronic of morons were buying into the “they figured him out” talking points coming from various NFL also-ran types. But what’s incredible is that Baltimore has overcome the obscene rash of injuries they suffered in August and September. On top of that, they’ve now had to play on a short week, coming off an overtime MNF game, twice this season; both games were against fellow AFC bluebloods and both games they won, stealing one from the Chiefs in Week 2 and completely outclassing the Chargers on Sunday. This is a team that weathered the worst and have come out playing elite football. That’s a credit to the players and coaching staff.

The Dallas Cowboys did everything wrong except win. It looked like they were going to fall in Foxboro when they kept failing on third down. Or as they racked up 115 yards of penalties. Or when Dak Prescott turned it over on the goal line. Or after Greg Zuerlein hooked a potential go-ahead kick late. Or when, moments after a Trevon Diggs gave them the lead, they allowed a 75-yard touchdown to give it right back. Or when, trailing by three in the final seconds, a series of Connor Williams penalties had them facing a third-and-25 in their own territory. Or when they lost the overtime coin toss. There’s something to be said for pulling out a game like the Cowboys did in Foxboro, and especially when it pushes you to 5–1.

What Kyler Murray and DeAndre Hopkins are doing. As in, repeatedly converting third-and-longs out of structure. Cardinals on third and very long vs. Browns on fourth-and-short. Arizona scored touchdowns on a third-and-21 and a third-and-goal from the 13. The Browns failed to convert a fourth-and-3 and a fourth-and-4 inside the Cardinals’ 15. That’s how a game gets out of reach early. The Cardinals’ first touchdown in Cleveland came on a third-and-21 in which Murray extended the play until Christian Kirk came open. The second was on a third-and-goal from the 13, a Browns blitz forcing Murray into an uninspired quick throw to Hopkins, who made the catch at the 10 and somehow shook three Browns defenders to take it into the end zone. Greener pastures ahead as AG Green has returned for the explosive Cardinal offensive unit and JJ Watt is finally on a winner. Most starting tackles have no chance against the J.J. Watt and Chandler Jones pairing, so you can imagine how the Browns Blake Hance and James Hudson fared.

The Bengals out of the jungle. Lots of funeral preparations were being made for Zac Taylor this summer, but right now he has the Bengals sitting at 4–2, Joe Burrow looking every bit like the franchise quarterback we thought he’d be, and the defense emerging as one of the most underrated units in football. The schedule has been soft, but good teams establish themselves as good by beating bad teams, and that’s what the Bengals—once one of the bad teams—are doing right now.

Kirk Cousins does it again, and again, again: Due to some conservative late-game play-calling, the Vikings are coming down to the final possession pretty much every week. Cousins drove the Vikings 46 yards in 42 seconds with two timeouts, setting up a potential game-winning field goal from 47 that kicker Greg Joseph missed. So Cousins took matters into his own hands in overtime, driving the Vikings 75 yards on nine plays, with the game-winner to K.J. Osborn. Cousins has been charged with mounting a final-minute drive to tie or win a game six times this season; five times, he’s either put up points or put Minnesota in position to score points via field goal attempt of less than 50 yards.

Kenny Clark as the closer: Coverage had a lot to do on both plays, but with the Bears trying to cut it

to a one-possession game Clark sacked Justin Fields twice in a three-play span. Finishing a play in the backfield on Fields is no small feat for a 300-plus pounder.

Rich Bisaccia is on the board. The Raiders played like a team with no interest in folding up the season in the wake of the Jon Gruden scandal. The pass rush was there, they took advantage of multiple Teddy Bridgewater misfires, and Derek Carr delivered a handful of big-time throws in his first game post-Gruden.

Mac Jones gets Trevon Diggs on payback touchdown. One play after giving up the lead with a high-and-wide slant throw that became a pick-six for Diggs, Jones and the Patriots took advantage of Diggs's aggressiveness with a double move to re-take the lead on a 75-yard Kendrick Bourne touchdown in the wildest succession of plays you'll ever see. Jalen Mills, you gotta walk away dude. The number of times Bill Belichick and Patriots fans saw Tom Brady trolling opponents after a big play over the years, it can't taste good to be on the other side of it. It's one thing to give up the play, but don't make yourself into a meme in the aftermath.

Who is this man? Apparently Justin Tucker falsified a passport and traveled to London to kick for the Jaguars under the assumed identity "Matthew Wright." Jacksonville—who amazingly had not converted a field goal through five games—got three field goals from "Wright" in London, including a 54-yarder to tie it with 3:40 left, and a 53-yarder to win it as time expired. Trevor Lawrence and his teammates dragged Urban Meyer to an NFL victory with them!

Sloppy, Sloppy, Sloppy Chiefs. The good news is that it's not like the Chiefs have receivers who can't get open, or a system that doesn't work. (Also, they won, albeit against a not-very-good opponent.) They are just exceptionally sloppy right now—three move turnovers, including Mahomes interceptions that came via botched snap and stumbling receiver. You would presume these things will get cleaned up as the year goes on—especially considering the wholesale changes on the offensive line—but they are minus-8 in turnover differential six games into the season.

What's Going On Here?

Chargers not so special teams. Another missed PAT (that's five this season; could've just kept Michael Badgley at this point), a 47-yard return allowed on the second-half kickoff, returns of 13-plus yards allowed on all three punt returns they covered. They got their butts beat anyway in Baltimore, but the special-teams headaches remain for another Chargers regime.

That browns secondary: Sunday featured a whole lot of pointing and frustrated gesturing, almost like Jack Del Rio is guest-coordinating this unit. Sunday was the first time this season Cleveland's front four wasn't utterly dominant, forcing the defensive backfield to do... well, something. Instead, they did nothing. I mean, DeAndre Hopkins is really good, but how can this become a touchdown?

Vikings third-and-8 call: Protecting an eight-point lead with two minutes left and with a chance to seal the game with a first down, they instead chose the ol' run-then-punt. Was it likely Sam Darnold would lead a 90-plus yard drive and get the two-point conversion on top of it? No, but the game is different when the entire field is four-down territory. The Vikings were lucky to win the overtime toss and have Kirk Cousins mitigate that bout of play-calling cowardice.

Connor Williams Collects All the Flags: The Cowboys' oft-maligned (but quietly improving) left guard almost ended the game in Foxboro by picking up a blatant hold then a subsequent unsportsmanlike conduct penalty that took the Cowboys from the fringe of field-goal range to a third-and-25 situation in their own territory. (Dak Prescott bailed him out one play later, with a 24-yard throw to CeeDee Lamb that set up a field goal to force overtime.).

Tyreek Hill's loss of equilibrium. On the first drive of the game he fell down, nearly causing an interception. On the first play of the second quarter, on a first-and-goal snap, he stumbled and then gathered himself just in time to deflect a pass for a red-zone interception. Uncontrollable-falling-down.

Tua Tagovailoa's elementary offense against a team with no pass rush—the Dolphins' offensive

coordinators clearly made a point of creating space for Tua like he had at Alabama (the Jaguars are one of the defenses where you can basically turn into 7-on-7), and consistently called passing plays on running down-and-distance. When there's no one near him, Tua is fine; the same that can be said for many quarterbacks in the league right now. But even the slightest bit of pressure—or even a threat of pressure—causes a complete meltdown and there's no telling where the ball will go.

Aaron Rodgers, to Soldier Field. “I OWN YOU”! And thanks for that ARod.

The Cardinals Just Keep Stacking Wins: There have been weeks where they looked like they were on even footing with the likes of the Jaguars and the disjointed Trey Lance-led 49ers. They're stopping fourth downs at an unsustainable rate (opponents are 4-for-14!)—not unlike their outlier red-zone efficiency around this point of the 2020 season—and offensively they've repeatedly converted third-and-15-plus. They continue to demand incredible individual playmaking from their quarterback, even if he is the best player in football right now. But most importantly: Even if they aren't the best team in football (they aren't), they're sitting at 6–0, they have road wins over the Rams and Browns, and after a while you have enough margin for error that nothing matters again until January football when you're a couple bounces away from the Super Bowl.

The Tank and Everything After: On Sunday morning the NFL continued its assault on the United Kingdom by subjecting them to two teams who threw away recent seasons in service of the tank. Tanking is a cynical, outrageously anti-labor and largely ineffective strategy. (Even in the NBA, where a single player can make an immense impact, the 76ers famously gave themselves over to the most absurd rebuild professional sports has ever seen; Philly fans have since had to watch more forward-thinking franchises run circles around their team to championships while the 76ers have failed to advance past the point of the team they originally tore down). Tanking appeals to a certain sect of fans because “we're going to get the first pick of the draft” is easier to understand than, “we're going to identify market inefficiencies in talent acquisition and find innovative ways to develop homegrown players.” But, as we're seeing with the Dolphins and Jaguars, losing is a difficult habit to shake.

Joe Judge Watch Is Officially On: The Giants continue to be dreadfully unimaginative on offense and increasingly leaky on defense, especially without Blake Martinez captaining on the field. But more than anything: There's no greater indictment of a coaching staff than failing to win games as their young quarterback breaks through (despite Daniel Jones's first rocky performance of the season coming on Sunday, he's otherwise been excellent this year.) That's what's happening with the Giants right now.

At the 6/17th of the Way Point in the Season, John Harbaugh Is Coach of the Year: They weathered an incredible rash of injuries late in the summer, and had to play elite opponents on short weeks (and off overtime games!) twice, coming away with wins both times. No team has overcome more to get to 5–1. Come get your Circuit City gift card, John Harbaugh.

MLB PICKS ARE ON FIRE, CLICK FOR PICK



PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Carolina at NY GIANTS Under 44 by 7

The Carolina Panthers come into this game looking to shake off a third straight loss after their 34-28 OT loss to Minnesota in their last game. Sam Darnold has thrown for 1,366 yards, 6 touchdowns and 6 interceptions on 65.6% passing while Chuba Hubbard leads the Panthers in rushing with 220 rushing yards. DJ Moore leads Carolina's receivers with 35 catches for 440 yards while another four receivers have at least 100 receiving yards for the Panthers up to this point. On defense, Sean Chandler and Jeremy Chinn each have a team-high 30 total tackles while Haason Reddick has a team-leading 6.5 sacks this season.

The New York Giants come into this one reeling after a 38-11 beatdown at the hands of the Los Angeles Rams in their last game. Daniel Jones has thrown for 1,524 yards, 4 touchdowns and 4 picks on 62.5% passing while also leading the Giants in rushing with 201 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Kadarius Toney leads the Giants in receiving with 317 receiving yards while Sterling Shepard and Kenny Golladay have a combined 581 receiving yards as well this year. On defense, Logan Ryan has a team-high 50 total tackles while Azeez Ojulari, Austin Johnson and Leonard Williams each have 3 sacks. Xavier McKinney and James Bradberry each have a pair of sacks as well on the year.

Carolina is 8-1 ATS in their last 9 road games and 7-17 ATS in their last 24 games against a team with a losing record while the under is 4-0 in their last 4 games as a favorite. New York is 3-7 ATS in their last 10 games overall and 6-20-1 ATS in their last 27 home games while the under is 5-0-1 in their last 6 games as a home underdog.

I understand this is a low line and why so low when the Giants are banged up? Reality is that Carolina's been struggling after all competition. The good news for Carolina is that they're 8-1 ATS in their last 9 road games. But this was all before Sam Darnold. The Giants aren't necessarily taking the world by storm and also have struggled mightily on offense. Even if the Giants were healthy, this team is a mess. Carolina at least has some idea of what they're doing and a competent coach running the show. I'm going with the trends in this game. Carolina is under 4-0 in their last 4 games as a favorite. New York is has gone under 5-0-1 in their last 6 games as a home underdog. **Take under 44.**

Projected Score: Carolina 20, NY Giants 17

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

MIAMI + 3 Over Atlanta by 4

The Atlanta Falcons need a win to get a game above a .500 record. The Miami Dolphins need a win to snap a five-game losing streak.

The Atlanta Falcons have split their last two road games. Matt Ryan is completing 69.1 percent of his passes for 1,332 yards, 10 touchdowns and three interceptions. Kyle Pitts and Cordarrelle Patterson have combined for 603 receiving yards and five touchdowns while Calvin Ridley has 27 receptions. The Atlanta Falcons ground game is averaging 91 yards per contest, and Mike Davis leads the way with 204 yards and one touchdown. Defensively, Atlanta is allowing 29.6 points and 352.6 yards per game. Foyesade Oluokun leads the Atlanta Falcons with 48 tackles, Dante Fowler Jr. has two sacks and Jaylinn Hawkins has one interception.

The Miami Dolphins have split their last six home games. Tua Tagovailoa is completing 64.1 percent of his passes for 544 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. Mike Gesicki and Jaylen Waddle have combined for 643 receiving yards and four touchdowns, while DeVante Parker has 17 receptions. The Miami Dolphins ground game is averaging 71.5 yards per contest, and Myles Gaskin

leads the way with 176 yards on 39 carries. Defensively, Miami is allowing 29.5 points and 417.8 yards per game. Jerome Baker leads the Miami Dolphins with 42 tackles, Emmanuel Ogbah has 2.5 sacks and Xavien Howard has one interception.

The Falcons are 9-3 ATS vs. a team with a losing record. The Dolphins are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 games overall. The under is 5-2 in Falcons last 7 road games. The over is 4-1 in Dolphins last 5 games on grass. The favorite is 3-1-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings.

There's every reason in the world to fade the Dolphins here, as they hit rock bottom last week with a loss to the Jaguars, and they're at the bottom in every major statistical category on both sides of the ball. The Falcons have also had an extra week to prepare for this game, while the Dolphins are fresh from a trip to London. Yikes.

With all that said, the Falcons aren't exactly world beaters, and I'm not thrilled to lay chalk with a team on the road that's 31st in scoring defense and 2-5 ATS in their last 7 games as a favorite. And while it may seem crazy to say now, I still don't believe the Dolphins are this bad of a football team. The Dolphins are 9-3 ATS in their last 12 home games and should put forth a good effort against a team giving up 30 points per game. **Give me the home dog fish + 3.**

Projected Score: Miami 27, Atlanta 23

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

LA RAMS - 14½ Over Detroit by 24

Detroit is coming off a blowout loss to the Bengals in their last game. As for the Rams, they took a big win over the Giants this past weekend to move to 5-1 on the year.

Detroit has hit the skids this year so far at 0-6. In succession, the Lions' losses have come to the 49ers 41-33, the Packers 35-17, the Ravens 19-17, the Bears 24-14, the Vikings 19-17 and the Bengals 34-11.

In the blowout loss to Cincinnati, the Lions couldn't score until the fourth quarter—and by then it was far too late. QB Jared Goff put up 202 yards and an interception on 28-of-42 passing, while De'Andre Swift led a tepid rush on 24 yards and a score from 13 carries.

Over on the Rams' side, their lone blemish this year was a 37-20 loss to the Cardinals on October 3. Outside of that LA has beaten the Bears 34-14, the Colts 27-24, the Bucs 34-24, the Seahawks 26-17 and the Giants 38-11.

In the win over New York last weekend, Los Angeles scored 28 points in the second quarter. QB Matthew Stafford had 251 yards with four touchdowns. Darrell Henderson put up 78 rush yards and a score, while Cooper Kupp led the receivers on 130 yards and two TDs from nine grabs.

The Lions are 4-0 ATS in their last four after an ATS loss and 4-1 ATS in their last five on turf. Meanwhile, the Rams are 4-0 ATS in their last four in Week 7 and 6-2 ATS in their last eight on turf.

The Lions put up just 228 total yards versus the Bengals, with 15 first downs and a puny 3.7-yard average per play. Detroit hasn't scored more than 17 points in any of their last five outings. Detroit is 2-5 ATS in their last seven road games and 1-4 ATS versus a team with a winning record.

As for LA, they had another good offensive performance against the Giants with 365 total yards. Goff will be meeting his previous teammates this week (close up and in his face all day). Stafford and the Los Angeles is 25-9-1 ATS in their last 35 versus the NFC as well. Rams are playing with a ton of confidence and Stafford will outduel Goff and will confirm the the Rams made a wise choice in trading Goff for Stafford. **Give the Rams in a blowout cover.**

Projected Score: LA Rams 37, Detroit 13

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Indianapolis + 4 Over San Francisco by 5

The Indianapolis Colts come into this one looking to add onto their 31-3 win over the Houston Texans last time out. Carson Wentz has thrown for 1,545 yards, 9 touchdowns and an interception on 64.2% passing while Jonathan Taylor's rushed for a team-high 472 yards and 4 touchdowns. Michael Pittman Jr. leads the Colts in receiving with 31 catches for 403 yards on the year while Taylor and Zach Pascal each have 200+ receiving yards as well. Another four Indianapolis pass-catchers have at least 100 receiving yards this season. On defense, Bobby Okereke has a team-high 51 total tackles while Darius Leonard has a team-high 2 interceptions and three Colts have a pair of sacks to lead the way in that department.

The San Francisco 49ers come into this one rested after their bye week following a 17-10 loss to Arizona in their last game. Jimmy Garoppolo has thrown for 925 yards, 5 touchdowns and a pair of interceptions on 66.1% passing while Elijah Mitchell, Trey Sermon and Trey Lance all have 100+ rushing yards this season. Deebo Samuel leads San Fran's receiving group with 31 grabs for 548 yards and 3 TDs while George Kittle has 19 catches for 227 yards and Kyle Juszczyk has 135 receiving yards this year. On defense, Fred Warner leads the 49ers with 45 total tackles while Nick Bosa has a team-high 5 sacks and Dee Ford has 3 sacks of his own this season.

Indianapolis is 7-2 ATS in their last 9 road games and 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games overall while the over is 4-1 in their last 5 games as a road underdog. San Francisco is 5-22-1 ATS in their last 28 games as a home favorite and 1-5 ATS in their last 6 home games while the under is 6-1 in their last 7 games following a loss.

Maybe I'm asking the obvious question, but why are the Niners so heavily favored here. They're dealing with two banged up QBs, a mess at running back and are simply incapable of avoiding the injury bug. Sure, Carson Wentz is a turnover machine with ankles like a baby deer, but he's the better option even though I never thought I'd hear myself say those words. **I'm going with the Colts and the points in this one.**

Projected Score: Indianapolis 26, San Francisco 21

THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
CFB	Texas Tech - Pk	Maryland + 6½	L.S.U. + 11½	UTSA - 6	S Diego St + 4½
NFL	NY Giants U 44	Miami + 3	LA Rams - 14½	Indianapolis + 4	

Dennis Stagliano's Private Gold Pick
★★★★★ **Best Bet of the Week**

CFB Private Gold Picks 5-2 71% are [HERE](#)

NFL Private Gold Picks 4-2 67% are [HERE](#)