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MILITARY WEEK ARMY vs NAVY CLASSIC

NCAA Landscape

No. 4 Southern California's loss Friday night to No. 12 Utah has brought No. 5 Ohio State back into the College Football Playoffs.

But this is TCU, and one thing we've learned during this wildly unexpected march toward an unbeaten season is to never count out Max Duggan and the Horned Frogs.

By reversing Kansas State's 21-10 lead in the third quarter and forcing overtime, TCU did enough to keep the Crimson Tide at bay and remain part of the playoffs.

That the Horned Frogs stormed back is par for the course during the most memorable regular season in program history. Only once since the second week of October have the Frogs cruised to victory, in last week's 62-14 romp against Iowa State.

The story of the year has been close calls: TCU won five games by a possession, most recently beating Baylor 29-28 on a last-second field goal, and defeated seven Big 12 opponents by an average margin of 6.9 points.

The overtime loss might give Duggan the edge over Caleb Williams in the Heisman Trophy race. He finished with 251 passing yards, 110 rushing yards and two scores, and led one of the memorable drives in program history, an 80-yard march lasting three minutes to knot the game at 28-28 with just under two minutes remaining.

The Frogs lost in overtime to one of the best teams in the country — a team they had defeated earlier in the regular season — should bring some calmness and clarity back to a race that threatened to devolve into complete anarchy at the doorstep of the final rankings.

Let's face it — Alabama doesn't have the resume to match with TCU, which wins the argument across four important categories:

1. More wins. Alabama has seven Power Five wins to the Horned Frogs' 10.
2. Better wins. The Tide can claim five wins against bowl-eligible opponents. TCU has eight.
3. Stronger wins. Alabama's best win is probably against Texas, edging out Mississippi and No. 25 Mississippi State. That's trumped by the Frogs' win against Kansas State.
4. The Texas win. Comparing the one common opponent, No. 21 Texas, reflects well on TCU. Neither team dominated, but Alabama escaped with a 20-19 win against the Longhorns, who needed to rely on backup quarterback Hudson Card. TCU beat Texas 17-10 thanks to the Longhorns' meaningless touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Winners

Michigan

No. 2 Michigan will sail into the playoff as the second seed after taking apart Purdue in the Big Ten championship game. Without running back Blake Corum, out for the rest of the year with an injury, the Wolverines leaned on Donovan Edwards, who ran for 185 yards and a score after setting a new career high with 216 yards in the win against No. 5 Ohio State. The 43-22 win also included a solid but not spectacular game from J.J. McCarthy: 11 completions in 17 throws for 161 yards and three touchdowns. Back-to-back Big Ten champions for the first time since 2003-04, Michigan has entered a new stratosphere under coach Jim Harbaugh and must be seen as Georgia's biggest threat for the national championship.

Kansas State

The Wildcats' first conference championship since 2013 sets the table for even bigger success in the future under coach Chris Klieman. Sparked by quarterback Will Howard, who went unbeaten as the starter after replacing Adrian Martinez in November, Kansas State will finish in the top seven or eight in the playoff rankings after avenging this year's earlier loss to TCU. In the end, the Wildcats were held out of the playoff debate due to the 17-10 loss to No. 18 Tulane during non-conference play.

Tulane

The Green Wave are headed to the Cotton Bowl after beating No. 23 Central Florida 45-28 to complete a remarkable turnaround and win the American Athletic. After winning just two games in 2021, Tulane lost just twice during the regular season: by a field goal to Southern Mississippi and a touchdown to UCF. In addition to beating the Kansas State and Knights, the Green Wave added wins another five bowl teams in Houston, East Carolina, Memphis, SMU and Cincinnati. This success made coach Willie Fritz one of the top contenders for the Georgia Tech job, which eventually went to interim coach Brent Key. Keeping Fritz on the sidelines is a huge win for Tulane.

Troy

In another year, Troy might've been the Group of Five's representative in the New Year's Six. The Trojans will settle for one of the best years during the program's Bowl Subdivision existence after romping over Coastal Carolina 45-26 for the Sun Belt championship. While Troy had shared the conference crown in 2010 and 2017, this is the Trojans' first outright since the 2009 team ran the table in league play. At 11-2, Troy should make the back end of the final playoff rankings and be the second-best team in the Group of Five behind Tulane.

New Mexico State

Bowl eligible before Saturday thanks to an NCAA waiver granted earlier this week, the Aggies completed an impressive six-win finish under new coach Jerry Kill by beating Valparaiso 65-3 in a rescheduled season finale. Bowl games are rare: New Mexico State has played in just four, most recently winning the 2017 Arizona Bowl. So are six-win seasons, something the Aggies have now done just six times since 1968.

Losers

LSU

All of the intrigue surrounding the SEC championship game was erased by the Tigers' loss last Saturday to Texas A&M, leaving No. 1 Georgia entrenched in the playoff win or lose and LSU competing for the New Year's Six, not the top four. Playing for seeding and the chance to avoid another loss in the championship game, the Bulldogs stepped out to a 35-7 lead in the second quarter and strolled to a 50-30 win. The program's second SEC crown under Kirby Smart will leave Georgia as the playoff's top seed and hold LSU out of one of the major bowls, likely sending the Tigers to the Citrus Bowl.

North Carolina

Once on the fringes of the playoff race at 9-1, North Carolina will trip and fall into the postseason on a three-game losing streak, the last a 39-10 decision against No. 11 Clemson in the ACC championship game. Back in the game for the first time since 2015, another loss to the Tigers, the Tar Heels haven't won the ACC since 1980. Beyond sending Clemson back to the New Year's Six, the game was notable for Dabo Swinney's quarterback change from a struggling DJ Uiagalelei to true freshman Cade Klubnik. Stepping for Uiagalelei after just five pass attempts, Klubnik completed 20 of 24 attempts for 279 yards and had two touchdowns, one on the ground. UNC redshirt freshman Drake Maye tossed two interceptions, giving him four against a single touchdown during this three-game losing streak.

Clemson

Klubnik was so in control, actually, that it raises the question of whether Swinney's quarterback change came one week too late. If he was under center against South Carolina, does Klubnik mean the difference in a one-point loss? And if the Tigers beat the Gamecocks, are they in the playoff instead of Ohio State? The move to Klubnik paced Clemson's ACC championship and sets the table for a return to more consistent quarterback play next season. But the Tigers could've used Klubnik before Saturday.

Boise State

The Broncos' conference-championship dry spell hits three years after losing 28-16 to Fresno State in the Mountain West championship game. That marks a very disheartening finish to a regular season salvaged by seven wins in eight games after a rough start in September. On the heels of a strong run as the Broncos' starter after taking over in October, quarterback Taylen Green completed just 17 of 38 throws for 175 yards and two interceptions as Boise State ignored a running game that averaged 4.9 yards per carry. Fresno State wasn't any better at 245 yards of offense, but the Bulldogs scored on a punt return in the first quarter and had an 87-yard touchdown drive in the fourth to put the game away.

Ohio

The best team in the MAC since the start of conference play in October, the Bobcats were unable to survive the absence of quarterback Kurtis Rourke and lost 17-7 to Toledo in the conference's championship game. Out since late November with a season-ending injury, Rourke led the MAC in every important category: completion percentage, yards, yards per attempt, touchdowns and efficiency rating. His replacement, CJ Harris, managed 163 yards and an interception as the Rockets claimed a second conference championship under coach Jason Candle. The long dry spell continues for Ohio, which has won five division crowns since 2006 but hasn't won the MAC since 1968.

Last Week's Top Performers

Michael Pratt (TULN vs. UCF): 20/33, 394 yds, 4 TD

Frank Harris (UTSA vs. UNT): 32/37, 341 yds, 4 TD

Max Duggan (TCU vs. KSU): 18/36, 251 yds, 1 TD

Stetson Bennett (UGA vs. LSU): 23/29, 274 yds, 4 TD

Donovan Edwards (MICH vs. PUR): 25 rush, 185 yds, 1 TD

Zakhari Franklin (UTSA vs. UNT): 10 rec, 144 yds, 3 TD

Caleb Williams (USC vs. UTAH): 28/41, 363 yds, 3 TD

Cameron Rising (UTAH vs. USC): 22/34, 310 yds, 3 TD

Cade Klubnik (CLEM vs. UNC): 20/24, 279 yds, 1 TD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BETS

Navy + 1½ Over Army by 7 & Over 33 by 6

The Navy Midshipmen and Army Black Knights meet Saturday in week 15 college football action at Lincoln Financial Field.

The Navy Midshipmen have lost 5 of their last 8 games.

The Army Black Knights look to get back to a .500 record.

The Navy Midshipmen have lost 5 of their last 8 non-home games.

Tai Lavatai is completing 46.2 percent of his passes for 787 yards, 5 touchdowns and 3 interceptions.

Jayden Umbarger and Mark Walker have combined for 507 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns, while Vincent Terrell Jr. has 9 receptions.

The Navy Midshipmen ground game is averaging 239.5 yards per contest, and Daba Fofana leads the way with 749 yards and 6 touchdowns.

Defensively, Navy is allowing 24.7 points and 356.2 yards per game. John Marshall leads the Navy Midshipmen with 88 tackles, Jacob Busic has 6 sacks and Elias Larry has 2 interceptions.

The Army Black Knights have lost 4 of their last 5 non-home games.

Cade Ballard is completing 50 percent of his passes for 335 yards, 2 touchdowns and 2 interceptions.

Isaiah Alston and Ay'Jaun Marshall have combined for 477 receiving yards and 3 touchdowns, while Braheam Murphy has 4 receptions.

The Army Black Knights ground game is averaging 304.3 yards per contest, and Tyhier Tyler leads the way with 601 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Defensively, Army is allowing 23 points and 366.1 yards per game. Leo Lowin leads the Army Black Knights with 84 tackles, Andre Carter II has 3 sacks and Marquel Broughton has 3 interceptions.

The Midshipmen are 4-0-1 ATS in their last 5 neutral site games and 7-2 ATS in their last 9 games overall.

The Black Knights are 7-3-1 ATS in their last 11 neutral site games and 5-0 ATS in their last 5 games overall.

The over is 5-2 in Midshipmen last 7 games overall. The under is 22-7 in Black Knights last 29 neutral site games.

Past meetings have shown us that is a annual classic game with both teams playing hard in honor of their respective military branch.

You can argue Army is the better team, and the Midshipmen are 0-5-1 ATS in their last 6 meetings in Army and 2-5-1 ATS in their last 8 meetings.

But it's Navy that's seventh in rushing offense and fourth in rushing defense. Army is second in rushing offense, but 116th in rushing defense. Neither team has an advantage in the passing game. We know what we're getting when these teams clash. It's ground and pound, but if Army can't stop the run, it's at a serious disadvantage. Give me the Midshipmen and the free points.

Projected Score: Navy 23, Army 16

UPSETTING NFL WEEK 13 HAS MAJOR INJURIES

NFL Landscape

The 49ers lost Jimmy G but the Bengals won with the KC Killer Joe Burrow, who seems to own the Chiefs, and the Colts melted down in historic fashion against the Cowboys. Here are our winners and losers from this week in the NFL.

Winner: San Francisco & Brock Purdy

Before Sunday, he had never thrown a touchdown pass in an NFL game—and now, he is QB1 for the San Francisco 49ers. Brock Purdy is in control.

Having to play a lowly-drafted rookie is generally an auto-loss for an NFL team. The only team to win a game after being forced to turn to a seventh-round rookie for meaningful snaps was the 2005 St. Louis Rams, who won one game with Ryan Fitzpatrick. When the Dolphins were forced to play seventh-round rookie Skylar Thompson in October, they got walloped by the Jets.

But the Niners are coached by Kyle Shanahan. They didn't drop off when Trey Lance suffered a season-ending injury and gave way to Jimmy Garoppolo, and they didn't drop off when Garoppolo suffered a season-ending foot injury in Sunday's game against the Dolphins. They were trailing against a playoff team when they turned to Brock Purdy, the 262nd pick in this year's NFL draft ... and won comfortably, 33-17.

Purdy went 25-for-37 with two touchdowns and an interception. He averaged just 5.41 air yards per attempt, easily the lowest of any QB with at least five passing attempts on Sunday. But that was the plan. Shanahan had a strategy ready for a third-stringer to put up solid numbers on a team with a winning record.

"Brock Purdy" is now a significant part of the NFL playoff picture. After all, San Francisco is in first place in the NFC West, and there aren't many other options available. The NFL trade deadline passed a month ago, and there simply aren't that many free-agent QBs. (Maybe Baker Mayfield)

ESPN reported the team planned to sign journeyman QB Josh Johnson off the Broncos' practice squad. San Francisco does have a fourth-stringer, Jacob Eason, but he has somehow managed to throw two interceptions on just 10 NFL passing attempts. But the Niners have won games with C.J. Beathard and Nick Mullens at QB, and made the NFC championship game last year with Jimmy Garoppolo at QB.

Brock Purdy was the last pick in the NFL draft, and now he plays quarterback for Kyle Shanahan—the Niners will probably be fine no matter who's under center, even if he was the last pick in the draft.

Loser: Jeff Saturday and the Colts

Everything fell apart so quickly for the Colts. It wasn't so long ago that they were one of the league's model franchises—elite quarterback play, a universally respected front office, solid coaching, and 10 wins virtually every year. Now they're 4-8-1, leading the NFL in turnovers, and coached by Jeff Saturday, who was an ESPN talking head last month.

Things fell apart even quicker Sunday night in Dallas. In the third quarter, the Colts strung together a 15-play, 90-yard drive to cut the Cowboys' lead to 21-19, falling just short on a two-point conversion that would have tied the game. And then they allowed 33 unanswered points—committing four turnovers and allowing five touchdowns—to lose 54-19.

The Cowboys were the first team to hit 50 points in a game this season, and they did most of it in about 11 minutes of game time. The Colts were outscored by 33 points in the fourth quarter, which may be an NFL record, depending on how you feel about a certain football travesty that took place almost 100 years ago. In 1925, the Chicago Cardinals outscored the Milwaukee Badgers 33-0 in the fourth quarter of a 59-0 shutout—but that game was the result of one of the early NFL's biggest

controversies. The Cardinals scheduled that game in a late-season attempt to play the flimsiest opponents possible to win the league's championship, but the winless Badgers had already given up on the season and sent many players back to their day jobs. To fill out the Milwaukee roster, a Chicago player recruited some local high schoolers and gave them fake names. The scandal nearly tore apart the NFL, which didn't have a foothold yet in American culture. The league's commissioner ordered the game stricken from the league's record books ... but apparently they forgot to actually erase it. The game is still technically a part of NFL history, and is now tied with Colts-Cowboys for the most lopsided fourth quarter in league history.

It's hard to put it all on Jeff Saturday—there were interceptions off strange bounces and funky fumbles, which no coach could've prevented. But the idea behind Jeff Saturday, Interim Head Coach, was that a former All-Pro lineman would be able to fire up a Colts squad struggling through a lost season in ways that a lifer coach might not. After hiring a non-coach to be a coach, you'd expect to lose some games because of poor scheme, or bad game management, and hope to make up the difference due to that extra fire.

But that's not what happened Sunday night. In the fourth quarter, the Colts gave up and got out-fought and out-gritted. Are there any Colts defenders who didn't look stupid on a Tony Pollard TD run?

Who should be more embarrassed—Matt Ryan for an ugly throw, or the receiver for having the ball wrestled out of their hands by a Dallas defender that wanted it more?

How did the Cowboys' backups make touchdowns against the Colts' starters look so easy?

If Saturday was hired for his motivational skills, why did his team get bullied so hard that it looked like they couldn't wait for the clock to hit triple zeroes? This shouldn't happen to pros—in fact, it's literally never happened to pros. The last time somebody got beaten this badly to end a game, it was a bunch of high schoolers going up against pros 100 years ago in a game so ugly and unfair that it nearly got the NFL canceled.

Winner: Joe Burrow, KC Killer

I don't want to base a narrative on three games decided by a total of nine points. But dammit, we're about to. Why can't Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs close games against Joe Burrow's Cincinnati Bengals?

In Week 17 last January, the Chiefs had their eight-game win streak snapped in Cincinnati. After taking a 28-14 lead in the first half, Kansas City went punt-punt-field goal on their only second-half drives and lost on a last-second Evan McPherson field goal. The loss dropped Kansas City out of the no. 1 seed in the AFC standings—but that wouldn't matter. They still hosted the AFC championship game, a rematch against the Bengals, and this time they blew an even bigger lead. After taking a 21-3 first-half lead, the Chiefs went punt-punt-interception-punt-punt-field goal and lost, 27-24, in overtime.

Sunday wasn't quite as dramatic, but facts are facts: Once again, Kansas City had a touchdown lead entering the fourth quarter, but Burrow and the Bengals scored last. Mahomes had a season-low 223 passing yards, the Chiefs defense couldn't stop Burrow or Cincinnati's backup running back Samaje Perine, and the Bengals scored 10 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to win 27-24. (Yes, the same score as the AFC championship game.)

The Chiefs are a league-best 59-18 since Mahomes took over as starting QB in 2018; if we include the playoffs, they've beaten 29 of the 31 other teams in the league. (They're 0-1 against the Seahawks and haven't played the Vikings.) There's only one team they have lost to three times since Mahomes took over: the Bengals. And they've lost all three since 2022 started, and led all of them in the second half by at least a touchdown.

This loss means the Chiefs no longer lead the AFC—the Bills have retaken the no. 1 seed, for now. But I'm not worried about that. It feels like the smartest thing the Chiefs can do is get as far away from the Bengals as possible in the postseason—or hope the NFL decides to start calling games at the end of the third quarter.

Loser: The Texans Offense

Sunday marked the Cleveland Browns debut for Deshaun Watson, who served an 11-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy after more than two dozen women filed lawsuits against him describing sexual assault and harassment by the quarterback. There's no quarterback on earth whose play would be good enough to justify the moral baggage associated with Watson ... but, like, Watson wasn't even good. In fact, he was legitimately awful.

Against the lowly Texans, Cleveland had exactly one trip to the red zone, and that drive ended with Watson throwing an interception. The Browns offense failed to reach the opposing end zone, but did get stopped in their own end zone for a safety.

And the Browns won, 27-14, because the Texans offense cannot stop giving points to the other team. Kyle Allen threw a pick-six to a Browns defense that till that point had just three interceptions on the season:

Denzel Ward had a scoop-and-score and Donovan Peoples-Jones had a 76-yard punt return touchdown, Cleveland's first since 2015:

All in all, it was one of the strangest games in league history. The Browns are just the seventh team in NFL history to return an interception, fumble, and punt for touchdowns in the same game. Their 27 points are the fourth most by a team without an offensive touchdown in the Super Bowl era.

And this is becoming commonplace for the Texans, who have allowed defensive touchdowns in each of the last three games. They've scored a total of 39 points in those games and allowed 35 points off of their own passes, fumbles, and kicks. Next up for the Texans?

The Cowboys, who forced five turnovers and scored a defensive TD against the Colts on Sunday night. The Dallas offense might not even need to suit up for the game.

Winner: The Four-Team NFC East Playoff Dream

After the NFL expanded its postseason to seven teams per conference two seasons ago, it's now possible for one division to get all four of its teams into the playoffs: the division champion, and three wild-card entries.

But it's almost impossible, because roughly 40 percent of NFL games are intra-divisional matchups—and somebody has to lose those, right?

Actually, no! All four teams in the NFC East played on Sunday, including a matchup between the Giants and Commanders, and yet none of them lost.

The Eagles crushed the Titans 35-10, the Cowboys easily handled the Colts 54-19, and the Giants and Commanders tied, 20-20. That game was still up for grabs until the final play in overtime, when Graham Gano's 58-yard field goal attempt came up way short:

Obviously, both the Giants and Commanders could have improved their individual playoff chances with a win. But what if you're someone whose primary rooting interest is getting all four NFC East teams into the playoffs? (Surely, this person is a TV executive.)

Sunday was perfect. Washington is now last in the NFC East, but only a half game out of the seventh playoff spot.

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

CINCINNATI - 5½ Over Cleveland by 14

The Cleveland Browns come into this matchup with a record of 5-7 for this season. In their last game, the Browns faced the Texans and won by a score of 27-14. Deshaun Watson went 12/22 with 131 yards through the air. He had a QB rating of 53.4 and ended the contest with 1 pick. Nick Chubb was the rushing leader for the Browns with 17 carries for 80 yards (4.7 ypc). Donovan Peoples-Jones had an average of 14.7 yards per catch by accounting for 44 yards on 3 receptions. The Cleveland Browns ended up running the ball 38 different times and accumulated 174 yds, which had them averaging 4.6 yds per attempt. At the end of the game, they ran 61 plays which converted into 304 yds. Cleveland relinquished 20 completions on 39 tries for a total of 201 yds, and a completion rate of 51.3%. Against the rush, the Browns gave up 82 yards on 22 tries, which is 3.7 ypc surrendered. Regarding getting in the endzone, the Cleveland Browns are sitting at 24.2 points per game. As a team they're averaging 156.0 yards via the ground game ranking them 4th in the league. The Browns have earned 4,450 total yards for the year. Cleveland has amassed 135 first downs as a team, and they have been hurt by 74 infractions for 605 yds. They have turned the football over 17 times (8 picks and 9 fumbles). When it comes to distribution of touchdowns, Cleveland has amassed 12 touchdowns via the pass and 18 touchdowns via the ground.

The Browns pass defense has conceded 2,578 yards which ranks them 13th in the NFL. They are allowing 214.8 yards per contest through the air in addition to conceding a completion percentage of 63.3%. During the season, they have given up 342.3 yards/contest which puts them 15th in the NFL. They have given up 17 touchdowns through the air and 16 touchdowns via the ground game. They are allowing 4.8 yards per rush and 127.4 rushing yards per contest this season. For the season, they have conceded 1,529 rushing yards through 12 games. The Browns are ranked 27th in the NFL concerning team defense, allowing 25.0 points per contest.

The Bengals come into this matchup with a record of 8-4 for this season. When they last took the field, the Bengals walked away with a victory by a final of 27-24 when they played the Chiefs. Samaje Perine ran the ball 21 times for 106 yds, ending the game with 5.0 yds per attempt for Cincinnati. Ja'Marr Chase was featured in the passing game for the Bengals, hauling in 7 throws for 97 yards (13.9 yards per catch). Joe Burrow (2 touchdowns) ended the game with 286 yds on 25/31 passing while his quarterback rating was 126.6. He didn't toss any picks and his average yards per pass attempt was 9.2 yds. Cincinnati allowed 25 rushing attempts for 138 yards (5.5 yards per rush). The Bengals pass defense gave up a completion percentage of 59.3%, relinquishing 211 yards on 16 out of 27 through the air. The Bengals finished the game with 431 yards and they ran 66 plays (6.5 yards per play). Cincinnati ran the football for 4.5 ypc, finishing the contest with 152 yards on 34 attempts. The Cincinnati Bengals hold an average of 372.4 yards per contest which has them sitting 5th in the league. They hold an average of 100.9 rushing yards per game and have run for 1,211 yards for the year. The Cincinnati offense has totaled 463 yards of penalties on 62 violations, which ranks 26th in the NFL in terms of helping out the other team. They have thrown 8 interceptions while allowing opponents to recover 4 fumbles and they have earned 166 1st downs. During this campaign thus far, the Bengals have a total of 3,258 yards through the air as well as holding an average of 271.5 passing yards per contest, putting them at 4th in football. When discussing their ability to score points, the Bengals currently sit 7th in the league with an average of 26.0 points per contest. They have conceded 11 touchdowns via the pass and 215.7 yards/game, which has them sitting 16th in football. Cincinnati has surrendered a total of 1,372 yards via the ground game (114.3 yards per game) and 11 touchdowns rushing for the season. Their defense has earned 14 turnovers (6 fumbles and 8 picks) so far this season. The Bengals defense 4th in the league. This year, they have surrendered 255 points in total. The Bengals are allowing 21.3 PPG, ranking them 13th in the league. My prediction is that Watson continues to struggle while the Bengals continue to march on. Give me the red hot Bengals in the jungle. I have the Bengals winning this one 31-17.

Projected Score: Cincinnati 31, Cleveland 17

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

TENNESSEE - 3½ Over Jacksonville by 14

The Jacksonville Jaguars and Tennessee Titans meet Sunday in week 14 NFL action.

The Jacksonville Jaguars have lost 7 of their last 9 games. The Tennessee Titans have split their last 6 games. The Jacksonville Jaguars have lost 5 of their last 6 road games.

Trevor Lawrence is completing 65.6 percent of his passes for 2,834 yards, 17 touchdowns and 6 interceptions.

Christian Kirk and Zay Jones have combined for 1,407 receiving yards and 8 touchdowns, while Evan Engram has 42 receptions.

The Jacksonville Jaguars ground game is averaging 127.4 yards per contest, and Travis Etienne Jr. leads the way with 782 yards and 4 touchdowns.

Defensively, Jacksonville is allowing 22.7 points and 369.1 yards per game. Foyesade Oluokun leads the Jacksonville Jaguars with 128 tackles, Dawuane Smoot has 5 sacks and Andre Cisco has 3 interceptions.

The Tennessee Titans have won 3 of their last 4 home games.

Ryan Tannehill is completing 64.9 percent of his passes for 2,117 yards, 11 touchdowns and 4 interceptions.

Treyton Burks and Robert Woods have combined for 716 receiving yards and 2 touchdowns, while Nick Westbrook-Ikhine has 19 receptions.

The Tennessee Titans ground game is averaging 119.9 yards per contest, and Derrick Henry leads the way with 1,078 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Defensively, Tennessee is allowing 20 points and 359.8 yards per game. David Long Jr. leads the Tennessee Titans with 86 tackles, Denico Autry has 7 sacks and Amani Hooker has 1 interception.

The Jaguars are 0-3-1 ATS in their last 4 road games and 2-6-1 ATS in their last 9 games overall.

The Titans are 4-1 ATS in their last 5 vs. AFC South and 8-2 ATS in their last 10 games overall.

The over is 7-1 in Jaguars last 8 road games. The under is 7-2 in Titans last 9 games overall.

The Jaguars are 1-5-1 ATS in their last 7 meetings in Tennessee and 2-8 ATS in their last 10 meetings.

The favorite is 4-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings.

Right when the Jacksonville Jaguars show potential of being a team on the rise, they let you down. The Jaguars are fresh off getting their butts kicked by the Lions.

The Tennessee Titans are due for a bounce back performance after two subpar showings, and their front seven is good enough to frustrate a Jags team that's scored 17 or fewer points in 5 of their last 8 games.

The Titans have won 9 of the last 10 meetings against the Jaguars, which includes a shutout win almost a year ago to the day. The Jaguars are 1-5-1 ATS in their last 7 meetings in Tennessee and 2-8 ATS in their last 10 meetings. The favorite is 4-1 ATS in their last 5 meetings.

Enough said, I'll lay the points. Give me the Titans at home in a comfortable win and cover.

Projected Score: Tennessee 30, Jacksonville 16

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Kansas City - 8 Over DENVER by 17 **Kansas City at Denver Under 44 by 7**

Despite the fact that both of these teams lost on Sunday, I have far more reason to trust the Chiefs than the Broncos.

These are two teams heading in completely opposite directions, and it couldn't be more apparent on the field.

Denver has one of the worst offenses in football by any standard or advanced metric you look at, ranking dead last in scoring offense at just 13.7 points per game.

That's absolutely putrid and won't help against a Chiefs team that is on the complete opposite of that spectrum.

To keep up with Kansas City, Denver will have to score via the explosive passing play, which actually is a weakness for a middling Chiefs defense.

However, don't expect the Broncos to see much success, as Russell Wilson is completely hapless, tossing just 8 touchdown passes through 12 games this season.

Sure, Denver is at home, but that hasn't bothered Patrick Mahomes before. Mahomes is a perfect 9-0 in his career against the Broncos, and I don't expect that to change this week.

The Chiefs quarterback is 56% against the spread as a single-digit favorite and should only need to put up 24 points or so to comfortably cover this number.

Considering the manner in which the Chiefs just lost to the Bengals, a bounce-back spot is in order, as Mahomes is 59% against the spread following a loss.

With Kansas City averaging 6.5 yards per play and nearly 30 points per game on the season, tallying 3 touchdowns is well within reason.

And as long as Mahomes continues his career-long streak of good performances against this division foe, the Chiefs should cruise to a big victory and cover the spread.

The Broncos have been printing money this season when it comes to the under, and it's easy to see why.

Denver's defense is one of the best in football, allowing just 17 points per game and 4.8 yards per play this season. Denver's advanced metrics back up those raw numbers as well.

And on the other side, we know what we're not getting from Wilson and this Broncos offense.

This passing game won't be able to burn a Kansas City defense that is susceptible to the explosive pass, and the Chiefs should be able to focus on stopping the run and getting pressure on Wilson.

And since we predict Denver to score a paltry 10 points in this game, it's hard to expect Kansas City scores 30+ points on a very stingy defense that is still playing with pride late in the season.

The Chiefs can win comfortably and this game can still go under this totals number.

So we have a double play in this game.

Take the Chiefs against the spread and take Under 44

Projected Score: Kansas City 27, Denver 10

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

SEATTLE - 3½ Over Carolina by 13

The Carolina Panthers and the Seattle Seahawks meet Sunday in NFL action from Lumen Field.

Carolina is 4-8 overall this year. The Panthers beat the Broncos in their last appearance.

As for the Seahawks, they're 7-5 and fresh off a win over the Rams.

Carolina lost five of their first six games this season, falling to the Browns, Giants, Cardinals, 49ers and Rams. After a win over the Buccaneers, the Panthers lost to the Falcons and Bengals. Carolina then picked up a win over the Falcons and fell to Baltimore.

Back on November 27 versus the Broncos, the Panthers had a 10-3 lead by halftime. Carolina scored another 13 points from there and won 23-10.

QB Sam Darnold put up 164 yards with a score, and D'Onta Foreman had 113 rush yards on 24 carries.

Over on the Seahawks' side, they went 2-3 over their first five games this year, losing to the 49ers, Falcons and Saints. Seattle hit a win streak over the Cardinals, Chargers, Giants and Cardinals again, then fell to the Bucs and Raiders in consecutive games.

Seattle got back into the win column back on Sunday versus the Rams. The Seahawks held a slim 14-13 edge by the break and held on for the 27-23 victory.

QB Geno Smith posted 367 yards with three scores and a pick. Tyler Lockett caught nine balls for 128 yards and a score.

The Panthers are 5-1 ATS in the last six overall and 4-9 ATS in their last 13 versus the NFC. Carolina is 2-7 ATS in the last nine road games.

Meanwhile, the Seahawks are 8-3 ATS in their last 11 in Week 14 and 7-15 ATS in the last 22 after a straight-up win. The over is 4-1 in Seattle's last five after an ATS loss.

The Seahawks had a little trouble dispatching a struggling Rams team in their last outing, however they got the job done with 438 total yards (348 passing). Seattle posted five first downs and 5-of-10 on third-down tries in that one but also had a couple of turnovers that made the score look closer than it should've been.

As for Carolina, they did a pretty good job defensively against the Broncos in their last game. But that's against the worst offense in the league. The Panthers were fairly unremarkable on offense and went just 2-of-12 on third-down conversions, though. Carolina should come into this one fresh with a thorough game plan. Nevertheless, note that Carolina is 2-7 ATS in the last nine road games. Geno Smith will find success as he usually does and Seattle will fend them off for the Panthers and cover.

Projected Score: Seattle 27, Carolina 14



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A promotional banner for MyBookie featuring a photo of Matthew Stafford, a professional football player, smiling and holding a large, reflective trophy. He is wearing a dark blue baseball cap with "CHAMPIONS" and "LV" on it, and a grey jersey. The background is dark blue with yellow and white splatters. The text "MY BOOKIE" is in orange and white at the top left. Below it, "UP TO \$1000 WELCOME BONUS" is written in large white letters. A green button with "BET NOW" is at the bottom left. The name "MATTHEW STAFFORD" is written in white cursive on the right side of the image. At the bottom right, small text reads "T&CS APPLY. SEE CASHIER FOR DETAILS."