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CFB CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK PREVIEWS & PICKS

NCAA Landscape

Michigan turned "The Game" into a rout with a big-play barrage we haven't seen from the Wolverines as they carved the Buckeyes up like a Thanksgiving turkey.

Meanwhile, Clemson and Cincinnati saw long home winning streaks snapped in disappointing, meaningful losses.

For the Bearcats, Tulane's win at Nippert Stadium thrust the Green Wave into the AAC championship game. The Tigers saw rival South Carolina win its second consecutive game against a top-10 opponent.

Alabama drilled Auburn in the Iron Bowl, and Oregon collapsed against rival Oregon State to keep the Week 13 shenanigans going. Texas A&M rose from the dead and stunned LSU, too, to knock the Tigers from playoff contention.

The College Football Playoff rankings took quite the toss-up from the action, and it's going to be a wild race to the finish line thanks to all the twists and turns from the week.

Here are the winners and losers.

Winner: Michigan's Big-Play Barrage

Whatever the formula for beating Ohio State is, Michigan and coach Jim Harbaugh should patent it. The Wolverines dominated the Buckeyes at the Horseshoe on Saturday, turning what was a close game for much of the afternoon into a shocking 45-23 win thanks to explosive plays.

C.J. Stroud's Heisman Trophy hopes ended on that field with a pedestrian performance, but the story was how the Wolverines shredded Ohio State's rebuilt defense and embarrassed the Buckeyes and coordinator Jim Knowles with gash plays.

With Blake Corum unable to play much (two carries) because of a knee injury, the Buckeyes still keyed on the run. Quarterback J.J. McCarthy (12-of-24 263 yards, three touchdowns) took what they gave him, popping huge plays against man coverage and torching OSU on the back end.

He hit Cornelius Johnson for scoring tosses of 69 and 75 yards to loosen things up, and then he found tight end Colston Loveland for a 45-yard strike to pull Michigan ahead 24-20 during the back-and-forth part of the tussle.

Later, with Ohio State needing stops, backup running back Donovan Edwards instead provided the end-game, scoring on runs of 75 and 85 yards to silence the stands. He finished with 216 yards on 22 carries and the pair of big scoring runs.

Now, Big Blue looks like it has a clear path to its second consecutive College Football Playoff.

Loser: Clemson's Ability to Stop Beamer Ball

With dominoes falling all around them, a Clemson team that entered Saturday's Palmetto Bowl rivalry with South Carolina needed a style-points win to impress the College Football Playoff committee.

Instead, the Gamecocks waltzed into Death Valley and stunned the Tigers with a 31-30 win, snapping Clemson's 40-game home winning streak with a great showing in all three phases. The last time the Tigers lost at home was November 12, 2016, to Pittsburgh.

How fitting was it that, after South Carolina was forced to punt the ball, the Gamecocks stripped it from Antonio Williams on the return, secured the ball, got a first down and ran out the clock? Their special teams were terrific all day—the way it's been the entire season.

Much like his father, legendary Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer, Shane Beamer brings it on special teams. As he interviewed with ABC following the win, players all around him were chanting "Beamer ball! Beamer ball!" a special teams mantra.

Indeed, what South Carolina has accomplished in back-to-back weeks is remarkable, beating Top 10 opponents Tennessee and Clemson. It's the first time consecutive victories over Top 10 opponents has happened in program history.

Maligned quarterback Spencer Rattler enjoyed his second brilliant game in a row, throwing for 360 yards and a pair of touchdowns, despite two brutal interceptions. He led the Gamecocks back from a two-touchdown deficit.

Winner: Caleb Williams' Heisman Hype

With much of the Heisman Trophy focus centering around others throughout the season, USC sophomore quarterback Caleb Williams has calmly—and dominantly—just led the Trojans to a bounce-back season for the ages.

In Saturday night's 38-27 win over a Notre Dame team that has been playing much better and climbing in the rankings as well, Williams wasn't dynamic. He wasn't perfect. But his steady demeanor and four total touchdowns led the way to yet another win.

When you piece together Williams' body of work for the entire season, he's deserving of the Heisman Trophy, and that's the reason he's likely the favorite heading into next week's Pac-12 championship tilt. Williams' 44 total touchdowns is the most ever in a single season in the long, storied history of USC signal-callers.

It's not like Williams' season came out of nowhere, of course. The former 5-star prospect replaced Spencer Rattler as a true freshman last year at Oklahoma. When Lincoln Riley left for L.A., Williams became the best player in the transfer portal and followed him.

He's the primary reason why the Trojans are heading to the conference title game and why, if they win, they'll be heading to the College Football Playoff.

The numbers are there statistically, but it's plays like Williams reading the defense at the end of the first half, keeping the read option and sprinting up the middle for a rushing touchdown that makes him invaluable. He also sealed the game with a fourth-down touchdown scramble at the end of the game. He understands Riley's offense, and he's the perfect player to run it.

With CJ Stroud's mediocre game against Michigan on Saturday and injuries to Blake Corum and Hendon Hooker, Williams is running away with college football's top individual honor.

Loser: Oregon's Colossal Collapse

With 4:46 remaining in the third quarter of the rivalry formerly known as the Civil War, the Oregon Ducks were in clear control with a three-touchdown lead over rival Oregon State.

All the Ducks had to do was stay in complete control and they would stroll into next week's Pac-12 Championship Game.

But, behind a bruising run game and capitalizing on a fumble, the Beavers scored 28 of the game's final 31 points to come all the way back and stun Oregon, 38-34. After trailing 31-10, Oregon State didn't pass the ball a single time the rest of the way.

They used 14 runs to dominate the Ducks and beat them while completing just six passes the entire game. A pivotal fumble by Oregon did give Oregon State a short field on one of those drives, but there was nothing cheap about the way the Beavers won.

It wasn't secured until a questionable pass interference call against the Beavers gave Oregon a 1st-and-goal situation late in the game, and Oregon State responded with a goal-line stand, got a pivotal first down via the run game (of course), and ran out the clock.

Oregon State won behind the muscle of 268 rushing yards, and the Beavers spoiled Oregon's waltz into the Pac-12 Championship Game.

Winner: Purdue Surviving Big Ten West Pandemonium

Michigan turned the Big Ten on its head Saturday with a blowout win over Ohio State to seize the spot in the conference championship game from the East side.

Through a wacky season, the lead in the West division seemed like a hot potato nobody wanted. All Iowa had to do was win this weekend over lowly Nebraska, and the Hawkeyes would have represented the West, but that didn't happen.

Instead, they left the door open for somebody else to take their spot. Purdue walked through that door, ending Illinois' hopes to back into the title game with a 30-16 win over rival Indiana. The Illini took care of business, too, with a win over Northwestern, but the Boilermakers moved to 6-3 in the conference and will play the Wolverines this weekend.

Of all the teams from the West, perhaps the Boilermakers and quarterback Aidan O'Connell's ability to stretch the field gives that side the best chance for a colossal upset. Honestly, nothing would be too surprising after watching the conference beat up on itself this year.

On Saturday, the Boilermakers took care of business with a decisive win over a Hoosiers team that closed the lead to seven points in the fourth quarter.

Once that happened, though, O'Connell found his long-time friend and transfer star receiver Charlie Jones for a 60-yard TD to pull ahead by a couple of scores and end any chance for an upset.

Jones is a Biletnikoff semifinalist, and he showed out in a pivotal game Saturday, catching four passes for 143 yards and the decisive score.

It would take a huge upset for the Boilermakers to upend Michigan next week, but at least somebody took care of an opportunity from the West.

Loser: Iowa's Squandered Shot

All Iowa had to do was win Friday. Beat a 3-8 Nebraska Cornhuskers team finishing out the season in the throes of a five-game losing streak, and despite all the offensive woes throughout the campaign, the Hawkeyes would be playing in the Big Ten Championship Game.

Improbable, yes. But coach Kirk Ferentz's team had everything in front of it. So, what happened? The Hawkeyes let it slip right through their fingers with an inexplicable 24-17 loss that won't help any of the grumbles in Iowa City that had softened somewhat after a late-season surge put them in position for a big finish.

Instead, a Nebraska team with rumors swirling about the eventual hiring of Matt Rhule to be the next head coach in Lincoln played like a squad inspired.

The Cornhuskers jumped out to a 24-0 lead, which, to an Iowa team that can't score, had to feel like it was 97-0. Trey Palmer was the catalyst with nine catches for 165 yards and a pair of touchdowns as Nebraska built its lead.

The Hawkeyes' normally reliable defense let them down early, and even though Iowa rallied with 17 second-half points, they continued to struggle miserably at quarterback and didn't have enough firepower to come all the way back. Now, they'll watch next week's conference championship game from their couches.

Winner: Kansas State Punching Its Ticket in Style

As the rain fell along with the once-Cinderella Kansas Jayhawks, Chris Klieman and Bill Snyder embraced on the Kansas State sideline.

The legendary Wildcats coach and the current one haven't been a part of a seamless transition from one era to the other, but it's obvious the program in the "Little Apple" is in Klieman's capable hands.

That was further evidenced by Saturday night's 47-27 onslaught of rival Kansas in Manhattan to end any thoughts of the Wildcats choking on their chance to play TCU in next week's Big 12 championship game.

The Horned Frogs beat the Wildcats 38-28 back on Oct. 22 on their way to an undefeated season, but, while they still have things rolling, so do the Wildcats. They actually could move into the top 10 in the rankings this weekend and will be a formidable foe for TCU.

Deuce Vaughn continued his dynamic campaign with 25 carries for 147 yards and a touchdown for the Wildcats, and Will Howard has been terrific under center, as well. Since replacing Adrian Martinez, he has provided a better downfield passing option.

Against the Jayhawks, he completed 11-of-21 passes in the rain for 213 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The defense did the rest, holding Kansas to 307 total yards and just 127 rushing. They made KU quarterback Jalon Daniels one-dimensional. The win sets up a marquee matchup this week with TCU.

Loser: LSU's Playoff Shot

Texas A&M's inexplicable, bowl-less season has been the stuff of national headlines simply because of all the talent and weapons on both sides of the ball coach Jimbo Fisher has stockpiled the past few seasons in College Station.

There was simply no reason for seven losses. Last Saturday night, it all came together at the expense of an LSU team that was exposed on national television.

Running back Devon Achane was the star with 215 yards and two scores. But it wasn't just him. Things finally clicked for true freshman quarterback Conner Weigman and receiver Moose Muhammad III who hooked up time and time again in a 38-23 stunner over the fifth-ranked Bayou Bengals.

While the Aggies offense came to life, perhaps the play of the game came on a Jayden Daniels keeper where he was stripped of the ball. It was picked up and returned 27 yards for a go-ahead touchdown in the third quarter.

A&M added a Weigman-to-Muhammad scoring toss to pull ahead by two scores, and LSU was left without any playoff hopes. Yes, the Tigers are going to Atlanta to play Georgia next week, but they had an opportunity to perhaps sneak into the final four with a big win next week.

It was not LSU's night, and with several dominoes falling around them, it was a tough pill for them to swallow.

Winner: Alabama's Sudden College Football Playoff Chances After Iron Bowl Beatdown

Don't look now, but with chaos looming large across the college football landscape, the sport's old constant is still laying there in the weeds, just taking care of business and watching everything else unfold.

While it's still unlikely the Alabama Crimson Tide get in the College Football Playoff, Vegas put them back on the board with Clemson's loss Saturday and Ohio State getting blown out at home by Michigan. They are now +2000 odds to win it all.

For those who want to see some new blood in the playoffs, don't shoot the messenger. Coach Nick Saban's team was off the boards the past couple of weeks following last-second losses to Tennessee and LSU, but the Tide have taken care of business since then and dominated Auburn in Tuscaloosa 49-27 in Saturday's Iron Bowl.

With Hugh Freeze rumors replacing Lane Kiffin on the plains, Auburn shifted its sights on an Iron Bowl upset over Alabama. But the Tigers forgot to bring their defense along on the trip for interim coach Carnell "Cadillac" Williams.

Now, Alabama is not just thinking about bowl season. The Tide will watch the SEC Championship Game from home, but things get interesting if USC and/or TCU lose their championship tilts.

Would the Tide somehow get in over a one-loss Ohio State team or over a one-loss Horned Frogs? How would the committee view a two-loss Alabama against a two-loss, Hendon Hooker-less Tennessee when the Vols beat the Tide head-to-head? There are tons of scenarios still in play.

With Bryce Young flinging darts and Alabama playing well, it's at least tabled to be part of the conversation.

Loser: Iowa State's Ability to Continue Chaos

With a spot in next week's Big 12 title game locked up, you could pardon TCU if it overlooked an Iowa State team that isn't going to be in the postseason in Saturday's regular-season finale.

But with perhaps a little margin for error with the College Football Playoff committee and a weak conference, the Horned Frogs knew they needed to take care of business against the Cyclones.

Boy, did they ever. Coach Sonny Dykes' Frogs just continued their onslaught through the Big 12, rolling into next week's title game with a dominating 62-14 win over Iowa State. At this point, there's no question at all they belong and should be among the nation's top four teams.

They may just make it in with a loss next week, though they probably don't want to leave anything to chance. Duggan accounted for three passing touchdowns and 212, and Kendre Miller added 72 yards and two scores, as the Frogs did what they had to do with some style points in the process.

As has been the case during the final part of the season, the defense continued its upward trend, too. The Cyclones couldn't generate anything through the air, and even the rushing game wasn't too great. When the game ended, Iowa State totaled 326 yards, but much of that was in garbage time. They converted just 4-of-13 third downs.

This was such a domination, TCU made sure the entire second half is included in that garbage time. Iowa State didn't have much of a chance.

Winner: NC State's Grit

Sometimes, the Wolfpack underachieve, and they don't wow anybody with explosive offense like their rival, the North Carolina Tar Heels.

But you can never question their toughness, and it's that type of never-out-of-it mentality that has been a foundational aspect of the Doeren era in Raleigh and something for the program to be proud of. The next chapter in that determined era came last Friday evening in Chapel Hill.

Down to fourth-string quarterback true freshman Ben Finley and decimated by injuries on both sides of the ball, the Wolfpack somehow found a way to withstand several late-game body blows dealt by UNC quarterback Drake Maye and pulled off a 30-27 double-overtime win.

Finley was on the scout team, you know? Reason for us to use UNC as our Private Gold pick. Finley completed 27 of 40 passes for 271 yards and two touchdowns.

Noah Burnette missed a would-be, game-tying field goal in double overtime (his second of the day) to secure the win for the Pack.

The victory came despite Maye's regulation heroics. After converting a fourth-down pass in the closing seconds with an across-the-body pass, Maye appeared to find tight end John Copenhaver in the end zone as time expired. Officials ruled the nose of the ball hit the ground and put two seconds back on the clock.

Maye calmly found Antoine Green for the game-tying score with no time left, but he couldn't find the end zone in two extra frames, and the Wolfpack sent Coastal Division champion Tar Heels to their second consecutive loss.

Loser: Mike Norvell Hot-Seat Talk

From October 1 through 15, you could hear the "Mike Norvell is on the hot seat" discussions beginning to start the engines and turn up the heat.

Following four straight wins to start the year, Florida State endured a grueling three-game stretch against Wake Forest, North Carolina State and Clemson in which it went 0-3, falling 31-21, 19-17 and 34-28.

It felt like the Seminoles were going to unravel again like they had in Norvell's first two seasons of trying to rebuild things in Tallahassee.

Somewhere along the way, though, the 'Noles not only regained composure but also began to build off Norvell's former big-play resume, finding its offensive groove behind quarterback Jordan Travis and turning into an ACC aggressor. Last Friday night, they held off upset-minded rival Florida 45-38 to win their fifth consecutive game and move to 9-3.

Despite holding a two-touchdown lead in the fourth quarter, the 'Noles allowed Florida to get untracked running the ball and tie the game at 38-all in the highest-scoring game in the rivalry's history. But a Trey Benson 17-yard scoring run to push him over 100 rushing yards put FSU up for good in a big win.

The victory was Norvell's first over Florida as FSU head coach, snapped a three-game losing streak in the series and dropped Billy Napier's Gators to 6-6 for the season.

Much of the talk will center around Florida State's 227 rushing yards and the big-play ability of Travis (who accounted for 353 all-purpose yards and three TDs), but the defense deserves plenty of credit too. It harassed Anthony Richardson all night, and the Gators quarterback was terrible with the game on the line.

He finished 9-of-27 for 198 yards, three touchdowns and an interception and was a different quarterback with the game on the line. Florida State was the better team, and it has a chance to get to double-digit wins with a bowl victory.

Winner: Alec Holler's Season-Saving Catch for UCF

Central Florida probably could have scripted a less hyperventilation-inducing way to punch its ticket to the American Athletic Conference championship game. But I doubt the Knights could have crafted one any cooler.

After blowing a 28-point lead to a lowly South Florida team that fired its coach a few weeks ago and actually trailing in the fourth quarter, the Knights got two stunning catches on a go-ahead touchdown

drive to end the game and won 46-39.

A Bulls Hail Mary fell harmlessly to the ground to end the last-hurrah effort to tie, but perhaps the most drama came beforehand.

Needing only a field goal to win, Gus Malzahn instead dialed up a pass to the pylon in the waning seconds, and Mikey Keene lofted the ball in the direction of Alec Holler. Falling out of bounds, Holler reached up, snared it one-handed and appeared to drag his foot before his knee hit out of bounds.

The officials called it a touchdown, and replay upheld it. The ensuing two-point conversion gave UCF the final tally, and, with the win, the Knights will have a rematch against Tulane, which they beat a couple weeks ago.

Holler's heroics were epic, but Keene also made a ridiculous throw rolling to his left, lofting the ball downfield to a diving Javon Baker for a 41-yard gain to set up Holler's grab.

Winner: Mike Leach for the 1st Time in the Egg Bowl

While all the talk preceding the annual Egg Bowl between Ole Miss and Mississippi State on Thanksgiving surrounded the "will he/won't he" saga of Lane Kiffin and the Auburn coaching vacancy, Mike Leach simply coached football.

It may seem like a novel concept in the state of Mississippi, where Kiffin and coaching rumors have sabotaged a once-promising season for the rival Rebels. But the Bulldogs pulled out a 24-22 win in Oxford on Thursday night.

So, maybe focusing on the actual game is something that works? All jokes aside, the Rebels and Bulldogs played a terrific back-and-forth, evenly matched game in a driving rain.

After MSU took a 24-16 lead, an inexplicable officiating gaffe midway through the fourth quarter put the Bulldogs in position to seize control. Following what was ruled an incomplete pass by Ole Miss quarterback Jaxson Dart, the Bulldogs picked up the ball, and the official announced there had been an inadvertent whistle.

Still, they reviewed the play and, despite the inadvertent whistle (which would have been a no-play), they overruled the incompletion, called it a backward pass and awarded MSU the ball. The Bulldogs drove to the 2-yard line, but quarterback Will Rogers fumbled going into the end zone, giving way to a 99-yard Ole Miss touchdown drive.

However, a failed two-point conversion attempt on a shovel pass and unsuccessful onside kick gave the Bulldogs the win, Leach's first over his rival since becoming the head coach.

Loser: Cincinnati, after Drowning in a Green Wave

Tulane has an opportunity to win its first ever American Athletic Conference championship after slaying the conference's big, red giant on its home turf last Friday.

The Bearcats' two-year conference title streak will end there, as they had no answers for Green Wave running back Tyjae Spears, quarterback Michael Pratt and a supporting cast that just kept on delivering haymakers in Nippert Stadium.

In doing so, they erased Cincinnati's 32-game home winning streak with a 27-24 victory, giving the Green Wave their first win over an AP-ranked opponent following a 61-game losing streak that dated back to 1980.

Now, the Green Wave will host next week's AAC Championship Game against Central Florida, a team they can avenge their only league loss against. UCF beat the Green Wave 38-31 on November 12.

As has been the case throughout the season, Spears was the most amazing player on the field, running 35 times for 181 yards and scoring a pair of touchdowns. Despite being banged up late in the

game, he got two pivotal first downs, allowing Tulane to go into victory formation in Cincy territory to end the game.

Spears was the star, but Pratt came up huge too. After the Bearcats took their first lead of the game with 6:27 left on a Ryan Montgomery run, Pratt hit two big passes (33-yarder to Shae Wyatt and a 30-yard scoring strike Duece Watts) to cap a four-play, 75-yard answer and put them up for good.

Winner: Texas Goes Smashmouth for a Win but Doesn't Get Championship Chance

Texas was a team demoralized, consistently getting embarrassed yet again by a Baylor team that had sacked Quinn Ewers four times and benefited from three Longhorns false-start penalties through the first three quarters.

Suddenly, though, a Longhorns offensive line that had been getting pushed around decided to flip the script.

With Texas unable to muster much through the air or buy Ewers any real time to read through his progressions, the Longhorns elected to turn to old-school football, and the result was a straight-up bullying of the Bears through the game's final quarter-plus in a 38-27 win.

A 'Horns offensive line that recently had been much maligned paved the way for Bijan Robinson (29 carries, 179 yards and two touchdowns) and Roschon Johnson (13 carries, 77 yards and two touchdowns) to power Texas to the win.

Even though Kansas State upended Kansas to knock Texas out of a chance for the Big 12 title game, it was a positive sign for coach Steve Sarkisian's team to find something positive in its young offensive front.

An 11-play, 74-yard drive that pushed Texas ahead for good at 31-27 during the fourth quarter was a statement with all 11 plays being runs by either Robinson or Johnson. The next drive (six plays, 42 yards) did the same. Ewers didn't throw a pass in the fourth quarter, and it didn't matter. Texas dominated the line of scrimmage for the win.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

UTSA - 7½ Over North Texas by 11 Friday Night 7:30 ET

The North Texas Mean Green and UTSA Roadrunners meet Friday in the college football Conference USA Championship at the Alamodome.

The North Texas Mean Green have won 5 of their last 7 games.

The UTSA Roadrunners have won 9 straight games.

The North Texas Mean Green have lost 4 of their last 5 road games.

North Texas Mean Green quarterback Austin Aune is completing 57.4 percent of his passes for 3,115 yards, 31 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

Roderic Burns and Jyaire Shorter have combined for 1,194 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns, while Var'Keyes Gumms has 31 receptions.

The North Texas Mean Green ground game is averaging 205.7 yards per contest, and Ayo Adeyi leads the way with 690 yards and 4 touchdowns.

Defensively, North Texas is allowing 30.1 points and 451.7 yards per game. KD Davis leads the North Texas Mean Green with 118 tackles, Mazin Richards has 7.5 sacks and Ridge Texada has 3 interceptions.

The UTSA Roadrunners quarterback Frank Harris is completing 69.6 percent of his passes for 3,524 yards, 27 touchdowns and 7 interceptions.

Zakhari Franklin and Joshua Cephus have combined for 1,857 receiving yards and 17 touchdowns, while De'Corian Clark has 51 receptions.

The UTSA Roadrunners ground game is averaging 173.7 yards per contest, and Brenden Brady leads the way with 699 yards and 9 touchdowns. Defensively, UTSA is allowing 26.5 points and 408.1 yards per game. Jamal Ligon leads the UTSA Roadrunners with 79 tackles, Trey Moore has 6 sacks and Clifford Chattman has 3 interceptions.

The Mean Green are 11-2 ATS in their last 13 conference games and 6-2 ATS in their last 8 games overall.

The Roadrunners are 12-5 ATS vs. a team with a winning record and 1-4 ATS in their last 5 games on grass.

The over is 7-3 in Mean Green last 10 games overall. The under is 5-2 in Roadrunners last 7 games overall.

The Mean Green are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 meetings in Texas-San Antonio. The home team is 8-1 ATS in their last 9 meetings.

The UTSA Roadrunners have been the C-USA team to beat all season, and they're on a heater of all heaters. At home, you can understand why they're favored heavily.

With that said, these clubs met a couple of months ago and North Texas held its own on the road, losing by just 4 points so it won't be easy.

UTSA has more balance and the much better passing quarterback. UNT quarterback Austin Aune is completing 57.4 percent of his passes. UTSA Roadrunners quarterback Frank Harris is completing 69.6 percent of his passes. Note that the UTSA Roadrunners have won 5 straight home games and the home team is 8-1 ATS in their last 9 meetings. Give me the Roadrunners. Lay the lumber.

Projected Score: UTSA 38, North Texas 27

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

USC - 1 Over Utah by 7

USC/Utah Over 66 by 9

Friday Night 8:00 ET

The Utah Utes and the USC Trojans meet Friday in Pac-12 college football action from Allegiant Stadium.

Utah enters this one at 9-3 overall.

The Utes are coming off a blowout win over Colorado.

As for USC, they're sitting at 11-1 this year.

The Trojans beat Notre Dame in their last game.

Utah lost to Florida in their opener, then beat Southern Utah, San Diego State, Arizona State and Oregon State before another loss to UCLA. The Utes took out USC, Washington State, Arizona and Stanford, lost to Oregon and beat Colorado.

In the Colorado matchup on Saturday, the Utes jumped out to a 42-0 lead by halftime. Utah cruised in the second half on the way to a 63-21 blowout win.

QB Cameron Rising posted 234 yards with three scores, and Ja'Quinden Jackson had 117 rush yards with three TDs.

Over on the USC side, the 43-42 loss to Utah is their only blemish so far this year. Otherwise it's been wins over Rice, Stanford, Fresno State, Oregon State, Arizona State, Washington State, Arizona, California, Colorado, UCLA and Notre Dame.

Matched up against Notre Dame on Saturday, the Trojans were up 24-14 by the fourth quarter. USC was able to hang on and post the 38-27 win.

Caleb Williams managed 232 pass yards and a score. Austin Jones led the rush with 154 yards off 25 carries.

The Utes are 5-2 ATS in their last seven after an ATS win and 20-8 ATS in their last 28 after a straight-up win. Utah is 0-4 ATS versus a team with a winning record.

Meanwhile the Trojans are 4-0 ATS versus a team with a winning record and 5-2 ATS in their last seven overall. USC is 2-8 ATS in the last 10 in December which is meaningless at this point.

This is perhaps the most fitting match-up for a Pac-12 Championship, and it took an improbable weekend of outcomes to get here.

USC will want to avenge their October 15 loss, a high-flying 43-42 outcome. The Trojans posted 556 total yards (175 rushing), 28 first downs, zero turnovers and 12 penalties in that one.

As for the Utes, they collected 562 yards (138 rushing), 31 first downs and a 3-of-3 rate on fourth-down tries.

Should be a great game regardless. This matchup should be another high scoring close game. These are two very powerful offenses that will score a plenty.

USC gets revenge on a cover and this game and sails over the posted total.

Take USC - 1 and Over 66.

Projected Score: USC 42, Utah 35

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

Ohio + 2½ Over Toledo by 7

The Toledo Rockets and Ohio Bobcats meet Saturday in the college football MAC Championship at Ford Field.

The Toledo Rockets have split their last 10 games.

The Ohio Bobcats have won 7 straight games.

The Toledo Rockets have lost 4 of their last 6 non-home games.

Dequan Finn is completing 58.6 percent of his passes for 1,973 yards, 21 touchdowns and 12 interceptions.

Jerjuan Newton and Devin Maddox have combined for 1,230 receiving yards and 12 touchdowns, while DeMeer Blankumsee has 33 receptions.

The Toledo Rockets ground game is averaging 172.9 yards per contest, and Jacquez Stuart leads the way with 566 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Defensively, Toledo is allowing 27.1 points and 337.8 yards per game. Dallas Gant leads the Toledo Rockets with 102 tackles, Jamal Hines has 6.5 sacks and Quinyon Mitchell has 5 interceptions.

The Ohio Bobcats have won 3 straight non-home games.

Kurtis Rourke is completing 69.1 percent of his passes for 3,256 yards, 25 touchdowns and 4 interceptions.

Sam Wiglusz and Jacoby Jones have combined for 1,508 receiving yards and 16 touchdowns, while James Bostic has 30 receptions.

The Ohio Bobcats ground game is averaging 142.6 yards per contest, and Sieh Bangura leads the way with 884 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Defensively, Ohio is allowing 29.3 points and 441.3 yards per game. Keye Thompson leads the Ohio Bobcats with 96 tackles, Bryce Houston has 5.5 sacks and Zack Sanders has 3 interceptions.

The Rockets are 0-5 ATS in their last 5 neutral site games and 0-5 ATS in their last 5 games overall.

The Bobcats are 16-5 ATS in their last 21 conference games and 8-0 ATS in their last 8 games overall.

The under is 5-1 in Rockets last 6 games following a ATS loss. The under is 11-4-1 in Bobcats last 16 neutral site games.

The Toledo Rockets have been hit or miss all season long, and they enter this title game playing poor football, which includes losses to Bowling Green and Western Michigan.

The Ohio Bobcats haven't lost since October 1, and they're one of the better passing offenses in the country, led by one of the more underrated quarterbacks in the country.

Ohio should have a lot of success in the dome in Detroit. I'm kind of surprised Ohio is an underdog here. Feels like we're getting free points with the better team.

The Toledo Rockets have lost 4 of their last 6 non-home games and are 0-5 ATS in their last 5 games overall. The Ohio Bobcats have won 7 straight games. Give me the red hot Bobcats in an upset win and cover.

Projected Score: Ohio 31, Toledo 24

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

Troy - 8½ Over Coastal Carolina by 14

The Sun Belt Championship is this Saturday in Troy, AL between the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers, and the Troy Trojans.

Coastal Carolina comes into the championship with nine wins through 11 games played following a 40 point blowout loss against James Madison in the final game of the regular season.

Offensively Coastal Carolina had their worst game of the season compiling only 183 total yards to score seven points after being shut out in the final 3 quarters of the game.

Defensively coastal was obliterated as James Madison compiled over 500 total yards of offense including 287 through the air to score 47 points in the win.

Coastal Carolina used three different quarterbacks as Jarrett Guest led the way completing 10 of 23 passes for 99 yards and one score and ran the ball 14 times for 26 yards as well.

Reese White led the way on the ground for coastal with 29 yards on 7 carries and Tyson Mobley posted a team leading 38 yards and one touchdown on two receptions.

Coastal Carolina is 9-2 overall this year and coming off a blowout loss to James Madison.

As for Troy, they're 10-2 on the year. The Trojans beat Arkansas State in their last game.

Coastal Carolina opened the year with wins over Army, Gardner-Webb, Buffalo, Georgia State, Georgia Southern and LA-Monroe before a loss to Old Dominion. The Chanticleers beat Marshall, App State and Southern Miss in the next three games.

On Saturday versus James Madison, Coastal Carolina had an early lead but didn't score after halftime. The Chanticleers ended up with a 47-7 blowout loss. Jarrett Guest posted 99 pass yards, one TD and a pick. Reese White led the rush on 29 yards from seven carries.

Over on the Troy side, they lost two of their first three games to Ole Miss and App State. The Trojans have since won nine games in a row over Marshall, Western Kentucky, Southern Miss, Texas State, South Alabama, Louisiana, Army, LA-Monroe and Arkansas State.

In the matchup versus Arkansas State last weekend, the Trojans were down 19-7 going into the fourth quarter. Troy roared back with 34 unanswered points in a 48-19 win. Kimani Vidal did most of the heavy lifting on offense with 33 carries for 208 yards and four touchdowns.

The Chanticleers are 4-1 ATS in their last five on turf and 4-10-1 ATS in their last 15 overall. Coastal Carolina is 3-8 ATS in their last 11 conference games.

Meanwhile, the Trojans are 4-0 ATS in their last four conference games and 5-0 in their last five in December. Troy is 5-2 ATS in their last seven after an ATS win.

The Trojans played pretty ugly football for three quarters versus Arkansas State, but to their credit Troy turned it on late with 268 rush yards in the comeback victory. Troy has had some very close calls in this win streak, and the defense has kept them from imploding on several occasions.

As for Coastal Carolina, they're off a rough blowout loss against James Madison. The Chanticleers had a couple of very close wins in the two games prior: 35-28 over App State and 26-23 against Southern Miss.

I reiterate, Coastal Carolina is 3-8 ATS in their last 11 conference games. Meanwhile, the Trojans are 4-0 ATS in their last four conference games and 5-0 in their last five in December. Troy is 5-2 ATS in their last seven after an ATS win.

Projected Score: Troy 31, Coastal Carolina 17

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BET

Boise St - 3 Over Fresno St by 13

Boise St/Fresno St Over 51 by 10

The Mountain West Championship goes down on Saturday between the Boise State Broncos and the Fresno State Bulldogs.

Fresno State heads into Saturday riding a seven game win streak. The Bulldogs beat Wyoming 30-0 in their last game. Jordan Mims led the way in the win with 3 touchdowns. Mims has 1,078 rushing yards on the season and 14 touchdowns.

The Fresno State Bulldogs finished the regular season with a 8-4 record. The Bulldogs are 3-3 on the road this season. Fresno State are averaging 30.9 points per game on the year. Quarterback Jake Haener has 17 touchdowns on the season with 3 interceptions.

The Boise State Broncos head into Saturday riding a three game win streak. The Broncos beat Utah State 42-23 in their last game. Quarterback Taylen Green threw for 220 yards and 4 touchdowns. Green also rushed for 91 yards on 6 carries. Green has 12 touchdowns on the season with 4 interceptions.

The Bulldogs beat Wyoming in their last outing. As for Boise State, they're 9-3 on the year and coming off a win over Utah State.

Fresno State started out the season at just 1-4 after losses to Oregon State, USC, UConn and Boise State. The Bulldogs have since bounced back, taking wins over San Jose State, New Mexico, San Diego State, Hawaii, UNLV, Nevada and Wyoming.

Last Friday versus Wyoming, Fresno State took a 23-0 lead into the locker room at halftime. The Bulldogs cruised to a 30-0 blowout win. Jake Haener threw for 183 yards and a score, while Jordan Mims led the rush on 52 yards and three TDs.

Over on the Boise State side, they were 2-2 over their first four games with losses to Oregon State and UTEP. The Broncos have gone 7-1 since with wins over San Diego State, Fresno State, Air Force, Colorado State, Nevada, Wyoming and Utah State.

In the Utah State matchup, Boise State was up 28-17 heading into the fourth quarter. The Broncos tacked on an extra couple of touchdowns from there and won 42-23. Taylen Green threw for 220 yards and four scores, while also leading the rush on 91 yards and a score.

The Bulldogs are 4-1 ATS in their last five on turf and 5-2 ATS in their last seven overall.

Fresno State is 5-2 ATS in their last seven conference games.

Meanwhile, the Broncos are 6-1-1 ATS in their last eight conference games and 4-1 ATS in the last five at home. Boise State is 1-4 ATS in their last five in December.

The last time these teams met up back on October 8, it was a 40-20 home win for the Broncos. Boise State posted 443 total yards with 10-of-18 on third downs and just three penalties. Fresno State has been on a tear since then (their last loss), scoring 30 or more points in six straight games.

This matchup could end up being a shootout: Boise State has 41 or more points in two of their last three, and they're no strangers to high-scoring games.

The Fresno State Bulldogs have a ton of momentum heading into the Mountain West Championship Game as they seek their 8th straight win.

Boise State dominated Fresno State in October and have the edge at home again. Back Boise State as they do it best at home. The plays here are twofold. Take the Broncos and the Over.

Projected Score: Boise St 37, Fresno St 24

NFL WEEK 13 PREVIEWS & PROJECTED SCORES

NFL Landscape

After giving us three crazy games on Thanksgiving, the NFL might have topped itself on Sunday with several wild games that went down to the wire.

In Cleveland, Tom Brady suffered a loss for the first time in his career in a game where his team was leading by seven or more points in the final two minutes of regulation. Before Sunday, Brady had been 218-0 in those situations, but that streak is now over after Brady watched his team blow a 17-10 lead in a 23-17 overtime loss to the Browns.

In Jacksonville, the Jaguars pulled off the most surprising comeback of the day and that's because the Jaguars aren't really known for coming back on anyone. Before Sunday, the Jags had lost 162 straight games since 2000 when trailing by seven in the final two minutes of regulation, but that streak ended after Trevor Lawrence led the Jags to a wild 28-27 win over the Ravens.

Overall, four teams (Browns, Jaguars, Chargers, Raiders) won on Sunday despite trailing by seven or more points in the final two minutes of regulation, which marks the first time that's ever happened in NFL history.

So did any of those four teams earn an 'A' for their performance? Let's get to the grades for Week 12 and find out. Note: Thanksgiving games excluded.

Cincinnati 20-16 over Tennessee

Bengals- B

It wasn't perfect, but the Bengals found a way to win on Sunday. Samaje Perine was impressive in Joe Mixon's place, rushing for 58 yards and a touchdown, and he also caught four passes for 35 yards. Tennessee native Tee Higgins dominated the Titans' secondary, as he caught seven passes for 114 yards and one touchdown. You also have to credit the Bengals defense, who never allowed Derrick Henry to get going on the ground. Don't look now, but the Bengals have won a season-best three straight games, and are 7-2 in their last nine games after starting the season 0-2.

Titans - C-

Not much went right for the Titans (7-4) on Sunday. The secondary was abused by Tee Higgins while Derrick Henry averaged just 2.2 yards per carry. It looked like Tennessee was going to have an opportunity to attempt a game-tying drive down seven points with just over a minute left, but Kevin Strong roughed the long-snapper on the Bengals' extra point, and a usually-disciplined team lost because of an undisciplined error. Todd Downing had another uninspiring outing as the offensive play-caller, but he wasn't the only reason the Titans dropped to 7-4.

Miami 30-15 over Houston

Texans - D-

The Texans benched Davis Mills this week in hopes that Kyle Allen might be able to provide an offensive spark, but instead, the opposite happened. With Allen running the show, the offense somehow took a step back. Allen threw two interceptions and got sacked five times in a game where the Texans totaled barely 200 yards of offense. The only reason the Texans did anything in this game is because the Dolphins pulled their starters in the second half in what can only be described as an act of pity. The only upside in this loss for the Texans (1-9-1) is that they took one step closer toward earning the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL Draft.

Dolphins - B+

If Mike McDaniel learned one thing from this game, it's that you can't show mercy in the NFL. The Dolphins (8-3) jumped out to a 30-0 lead, but instead of keeping their foot on the gas, McDaniel

decided to pull his starters, which allowed the Texans to creep back into the game. The Dolphins defense absolutely throttled the Texans. Not only did the unit pick up five sacks, but it also forced three turnovers, including a fumble return for a touchdown by Xavien Howard. The Dolphins offense has been impressive for most of the season and now, it seems that the defense is catching up. If the defense can replicate this performance going forward, this team is going to be tough to beat.

Carolina 23-10 over Denver

Broncos - D-

Every week, we tell ourselves that the Broncos offense can't get any worse, and every week, it somehow gets worse. In Carolina, things might have actually reached rock-bottom as Russell Wilson threw for a season-low 142 yards. In one of the few times where the Broncos' offense was able to move the ball, Wilson ended up losing a fumble inside Carolina's 25-yard line. Jalen Virgil also lost a fumble on a kickoff in the third quarter and this 3-8 team just isn't good enough to win games when they're giving the ball away like that.

Panthers - B+

The Panthers QB situation has been a game of musical chairs this year, and this week it was Sam Darnold's turn under center. In his first start of the season, Darnold didn't put up eye-popping numbers (11 of 19 for 164, 1 TD), but he did make several clutch throws with most of those going to D.J. Moore, who caught four passes for 104 yards. More importantly, Darnold didn't make any mistakes that could have helped spark a bad Broncos team. Darnold also didn't have to carry the offense and that's because that job went to D'Onta Foreman, who carried the ball 24 times for 113 yards. This was a solid all-around performance by a Panthers team that suddenly finds itself 4-8 and just 1.5 games out of first place in the NFC South.

Jacksonville 28-27 over Baltimore

Ravens - C

The Ravens are going to be kicking themselves all week for this loss and that's because they let this one slip away. Offensively, the Ravens (7-4) did a good job of moving the ball, but the problem is that Baltimore lost two fumbles and the Jaguars were able to convert those turnovers into 10 points. The Ravens' defense then had a fourth quarter meltdown as the Jags' were able to score on all three of their possessions in the quarter, including a 75-yard drive that culminated with the game-winning TD being scored with just 14 seconds left to play. The Ravens were playing with fire in this game and they got burnt in a loss that drops them into a tie with the Bengals for first-place in the AFC North.

Jaguars - A-

If Trevor Lawrence turns into a superstar, this might be the game that we end up pointing to as proof that it was going to happen. The Jags' QB came up clutch during a fourth quarter where he threw for 153 yards and two touchdowns as Jacksonville erased a 19-10 deficit. Overall, Lawrence threw for 321 yards and three touchdowns while completing 29 of 37 passes. If Lawrence plays like this going forward, the Jaguars (4-7) could be a dangerous team over the final stretch of the season. The Jags' offense kept the Ravens guessing with five difference players catching at least three passes, including Zay Jones, who caught 11 passes for 145 yards. The Jags' defense also played a key role in this win by coming up with two huge turnovers and holding the Ravens to just two touchdowns on five trips to the red zone. Doug Pederson also deserves some props by making the call to go for the win with a two-point conversion after the Jaguars' scored a TD with just 14 seconds left to play.

Cleveland 23-17 over Tampa Bay (OT)

Buccaneers - D

Tampa Bay (5-6) was unable to put Cleveland away when it had the chance. Despite dominating the third quarter (Cleveland had just 11 total yards during the quarter), the Buccaneers found themselves

in a one-possession game late in regulation. Leaky pass protection and a lack of run support (Rachaad White ran for 64 yards, but 35 of that was on one run on Tampa Bay's opening drive) contributed to the Buccaneers' offensive plight. They were stellar for most of the game, but the Buccaneers' defense was unable to seal the deal at the end of both regulation and overtime. They allowed plays of 12, 15, 17 and 46 yards on the Browns' last two scoring drives.

Browns - A-

Cleveland's defense kept the home team in the game when its offense went into a lull for most of the second half. Led by Myles Garrett, the Browns sacked Tom Brady three times after halftime after not getting to him in the first half. The pass rush contributed to the Buccaneers going just 4 of 15 on third down. The Browns (4-7) got just enough clutch plays from their offensive quartet of Jacoby Brissett, Nick Chubb, Amari Cooper and David Njoku. Brissett withstood heavy pressure (particularly in the second half) to go 23 of 27 for 210 yards. Chubb rumbled for 116 yards, including his 28-yard run to set up Njoku's touchdown. Cooper caught seven passes, none bigger than his 46-yard grab in overtime.

N.Y. Jets 31-10 over Chicago

Bears - C-

Without Justin Fields, not much could have been expected of the Bears offense, and they lived down to low expectations. But the defense was absolutely torched by Mike White, which is pretty embarrassing. The Bears (3-9) also lost multiple players to injury, which will hurt in future weeks. And they're now on a five-game losing streak. They need Fields back in the fold next week if they're going to have any chance against Green Bay.

Jets - A+

When you make a switch to the backup quarterback and then that quarterback goes 22-28 for 315 yards and three touchdowns, you get an A+. Those are the rules, folks. Plus, Mike White got Garrett Wilson in the end zone twice, Elijah Moore there once, and got all the ancillary pieces of the offense involved as well. Oh, and Zonovan Knight looked terrific in his first NFL action. And the defense was dominant for most of the afternoon for a Jets (7-4) team that got a much-needed win.

Washington 19-13 over Atlanta

Falcons - C

The Falcons (5-7) had the game won, reaching the Commanders' 4-yard line with 1:03 to play trailing by six, but Marcus Mariota's tipped-pass interception spoiled what was another strong performance for Atlanta's ground game, as they ran for 167 yards on 29 carries (5.8 yards per rush). Mariota threw for under 200 yards, which is something he's done in six of their seven losses this season. Not enough clutch plays in the passing game undid what was a good enough performance by their defense. It may be time to give rookie third round pick Desmond Ridder a chance since Atlanta has a clear ceiling with Mariota.

Commanders - B

The Washington defense was the definition of bend but don't break. They allowed 332 total yards to the Falcons, Atlanta's fifth-highest total of the season, but they only gave up one touchdown and intercepted Marcus Mariota in the end zone with just over a minute left in the game. Taylor Heinicke made just enough plays, throwing two touchdowns to only one interception, while Brian Robinson's career day (105 rushing yards) allowed Washington (7-5) to win the time of possession battle by about seven minutes: 33:09 to 26:51. The formula of a strong defense mixed with a ball-control offense is exactly what Commanders head coach Ron Rivera loves to see from his team. It results in playing some close games, but with their sixth win in seven weeks, his plan is coming to fruition in the nation's capital.

L.A. Chargers 25-24 over Arizona

Chargers - C+

Maybe they deserve more credit for getting a much-needed win on the road. They did come through in the clutch; Justin Herbert, Austin Ekeler and Brandon Staley all delivered in big-time spots, with the latter boldly dialing up a two-point conversion to seal the win. And Derwin James buoyed the "D" with a hand in two turnovers. But there's a lot to clean up. The banged-up line is still shoddy enough that Joe Lombardi refuses to let Herbert push the ball with any consistency, and their run "D" was especially vulnerable.

Cardinals - C

Kyler Murray started hot, DeAndre Hopkins reminded everyone he can still create on his own, and James Conner ate up. But once again, the Kliff Kingsbury offense folded when it mattered most. Murray and Co. failed to get even a single first down on the four drives following their final scoring series. And while the defense prevented Justin Herbert from breaking out early, it was suspect against all passes for many of the waning minutes.

Las Vegas 40-34 over Seattle (OT)

Raiders - B+

Josh Jacobs was a game-time decision for Sunday and it's a good thing he played, because he ended up carrying the Raiders to the win. The running back rushed for a franchise-record 229 yards along with two touchdowns with the biggest one coming on an 84-yard burst in overtime that won the game. With Jacobs steamrolling the Seahawks, that opened things up for Derek Carr, who threw for 295 yards and three touchdowns. When this offense is clicking, it's one of the most dangerous units in the NFL and it was clicking in Seattle. At 4-7, it's probably too little too late for this team, but if the offense continues to play like this, the Raiders could be a fun team to watch down the stretch.

Seahawks - B-

Over the past five weeks, it looked like the Seahawks (6-5) had fixed their early-season defensive problems, but apparently that wasn't the case. The Seahawks lost this game because their defense had no idea how to stop the Raiders. Las Vegas piled up 576 yards of total offense, which is the third-most the Seahawks have ever surrendered in franchise history and the most they've given up since 2000. Going into Week 11, this team looked like a contender to win the NFC West, but after two straight losses, the division feels out of reach and this team seems more likely to compete for a wild card spot.

San Francisco 13-0 over New Orleans

Saints - D

The NFL is pretty simple: If you can't score points, you can't win games. The Saints fumbled on their opening possession Sunday and things only got uglier from there. If the offense could have done anything, the Saints could have potentially pulled off an upset, but the unit just couldn't make any clutch plays. During the fourth quarter alone, the Saints drove inside San Francisco's 6-yard line on two separate occasions and they came away with zero points on both drives. The only upside about this loss is that the Saints play in the NFC South, which means they're still alive in the division title race despite having a 4-8 record.

49ers - B

The 49ers have had one of the best defenses in the NFL this year and they showed the Saints why. Not only did the 49ers pitch their first shutout since 2019, but they also force two big turnovers in a low-scoring game where every big play was amplified. Offensively, the 49ers weren't overly impressive, but when your defense plays as well as San Francisco's did on Sunday, you can get away with a few mistakes. With four straight wins, the 49ers (7-4) look like one of the top contenders

in the NFC.

Kansas City 26-10 over L.A. Rams

Rams - D+

With no Matthew Stafford and no Cooper Kupp, the Rams had no hope of winning this game. The offense totaled just 198 yards, which was the second-lowest number since Sean McVay was hired as coach in 2017. Bryce Perkins did the Rams no favors by throwing two interceptions in his first career start. At 3-8, the reigning Super Bowl champions are officially a lost cause.

Chiefs - B

The result of this game was never in doubt and that's because the Chiefs defense absolutely dominated the Rams. The Chiefs held the Rams to just 198 yards of total offense, which is the fewest they've surrendered in a game since 2013. The defense also forced two turnovers while sacking Bryce Perkins three times. The Chiefs (9-2) were somewhat sloppy with the ball in this game -- Patrick Mahomes threw an interception and they lost a muffed punt -- but the good news for Kansas City is that you can play sloppy football against these Rams and still win handily.

Philadelphia 40-33 over Green Bay

Packers - C

Going into Week 12, NFL teams were 0-21 in league history when surrendering more than 360 rushing yards in a game and you can now make that 0-22 after the Eagles rushing attack plowed through the Packers. Green Bay's defense got run over to the tune of 363 yards, which was the third-most the Packers have ever surrendered in franchise history. When your defense is playing that bad, you can't afford any mistakes on offense, but that Packers did that too with two interceptions from Aaron Rodgers, who left the game in the second half with an oblique injury. At 4-8, the Packers' season isn't over, but it kind of feels that way.

Eagles - A-

After only scoring 38 points total over the past two weeks combined, the Eagles broke out of their offensive rut by running over the Packers. Literally. The Eagles totaled 363 yards on the ground, which was the second-highest total in franchise history and the second-highest total in the NFL since 2015. The Packers had no answers for Jalen Hurts (157 rushing yards) or Miles Sanders (143 yards, two touchdowns). With this win, the Eagles continue to make the case that they're the best team in the NFL.

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The advertisement features a background image of Matthew Stafford, a player for the Los Angeles Rams, wearing a blue jersey and a blue cap with the word 'CHAMPIONS' on it. He is smiling and holding a large, clear glass trophy. The background is dark blue with yellow and white splatters. The text 'MYBOOKIE' is in orange and white at the top left. Below it, 'UP TO \$1000' is in large white letters, followed by 'WELCOME BONUS' in white. A green button with 'BET NOW' in white is at the bottom left. The name 'MATTHEW STAFFORD' is written in white cursive on the right side. At the bottom right, in small white letters, it says 'T&CS APPLY. SEE CASHIER FOR DETAILS.'

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Cleveland - 5½ Over HOUSTON by 17

The Cleveland Browns head to Houston to take on the Texans in Houston for Week 13.

The Browns are 4-7 on the season and 3rd in the AFC North. Cleveland has won two of their last five games and are 1-4 on the road this season. The Browns beat the Texans 31-21 last season in their last matchup.

The Cleveland Browns beat Tampa Bay 23-17 in overtime last week.

Nick Chubb rushed for 116 yards and a touchdown. Chubb has 1,039 rushing yards on the season and has 12 rushing touchdowns on the season. The Cleveland Browns are averaging 154.4 rushing yards per game which is 5th best in the NFL.

The Houston Texans head into Week 13 riding a six game losing streak.

The Texans lost 30-15 at Miami last week. Kyle Allen threw for 215 yards with a touchdown and 2 interceptions.

The Houston Texans are last in the league with 302 yards total offense per game. The Texans are averaging 15.8 points per game. Damien Pierce has 788 rushing yards on the season and 3 rushing touchdowns.

The Houston Texans are 1-9-1 on the season and are last in the AFC South.

Houston carries a 0-4-1 home field record. The Texans are 1-5-1 against conference opponents this season.

Texans are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 vs. AFC.

Texans are 2-5 ATS in their last 7 games in Week 13.

Texans are 1-4 ATS in their last 5 games following a straight up loss.

Texans are 2-6 ATS vs. a team with a losing record.

The Cleveland Browns have covered the spread in five games while the Texans have covered four games.

Houston hasn't scored more than 17 points for six straight weeks.

Cleveland will welcome back Deshaun Watson this week.

As mentioned earlier, Houston has not won a game at home this year. They'll get pounded by Nick Chubb and the Browns ground troops. If Tampa Bay couldn't slow him down last week, how can we expect the Texans to do any better.

Lay the points with the Browns on the road as Houston continues to be just awful.

Projected Score: Cleveland 31, Houston 14

WWW.GRIDIRONGOLD.COM

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Pittsburgh at ATLANTA Under 43 by 10

The Pittsburgh Steelers and the Atlanta Falcons meet Sunday in NFL action from Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Pittsburgh is fresh off a Monday night matchup versus the Colts.

In that one the Steelers posted a seven-point victory.

As for Atlanta, they're sitting at 5-7 overall after a loss to Washington in their last game.

Pittsburgh lost four of their first five games this year, falling to the Patriots, Browns, Jets and Bills. The Steelers hit a 2-3 run after that, beating the Buccaneers and Saints with losses to the Dolphins, Eagles and Bengals otherwise.

On Monday versus the Colts, the Steelers got off to a 16-3 lead by halftime. Pittsburgh gave up 14 points in the third quarter but eventually prevailed 24-17.

QB Kenny Pickett posted 174 pass yards, and Benny Snell led the rush on 62 yards and a score from seven totes.

Over on the Falcons' side, they were 3-4 over their first seven games this year. Atlanta took losses to the Saints, Rams, Buccaneers and Bengals in that stretch. The Falcons are 2-3 in the five games since, losing to the Chargers, Panthers and Commanders.

On Sunday versus Washington, the Falcons gave up points in every quarter during a close but unfortunate 19-13 loss.

QB Marcus Mariota put up 174 yards with one TD and one pick. Tyler Allgeier led the rush on 54 yards from 11 carries.

The Steelers are 6-2 ATS in the last eight after an ATS loss and 11-5 ATS in their last 16 in Week 13. Pittsburgh is 3-7 ATS in the last 10 road games.

Meanwhile, the Falcons are 1-4-1 ATS in their last six after an ATS loss and 1-4 ATS in their last five on grass. Atlanta is 1-5 ATS in their last six overall.

The Falcons need a good bounce-back after their unimpressive loss to a tough Washington team.

Atlanta managed 332 yards in that one along with 18 first downs and 4-of-10 on third-down tries. The Falcons have 17 or fewer points in three of their last four as well, so they're going to need to find some offense. But it's unlikely against a stout Steeler defense.

As for Pittsburgh, they had a bad third quarter in the Indianapolis game but otherwise it was a pretty reasonable performance considering the 7-of-14 effort on third-down tries, the zero turnovers and the 34:22 in time of possession.

Considering the tepid offensive output this season for both teams, we expect a hard fought game where points will be hard to come by. Should be a competitive game down to the wire. We're going to play the tick in this game. Tick, tick, tick, go under 43 points.

Projected Score: Atlanta 17, Pittsburgh 16

WWW.GRIDIRONGOLD.COM

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

Seattle - 6½ Over LA RAMS by 13

The Seattle Seahawks and Los Angeles Rams meet Sunday in week 13 NFL action at SoFi Stadium.

The Seattle Seahawks have won 5 of their last 8 games.

The Los Angeles Rams have lost 5 straight games.

The Seattle Seahawks have won 3 of their last 4 road games.

Geno Smith is completing 72.8 percent of his passes for 2,802 yards, 19 touchdowns and 5 interceptions.

Tyler Lockett and DK Metcalf have combined for 1,379 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns, while Noah Fant has 33 receptions.

The Seattle Seahawks ground game is averaging 118.9 yards per contest, and Kenneth Walker III leads the way with 613 yards and 9 touchdowns.

Defensively, Seattle is allowing 25.5 points and 388.7 yards per game. Jordyn Brooks leads the Seattle Seahawks with 122 tackles, Uchenna Nwosu has 7 sacks and Tariq Woolen has 5 interceptions.

The Los Angeles Rams have lost 4 of their last 6 home games.

Matthew Stafford is completing 68 percent of his passes for 2,087 yards, 10 touchdowns and 8 interceptions.

Cooper Kupp and Tyler Higbee have combined for 1,242 receiving yards and 6 touchdowns, while Allen Robinson has 33 receptions.

The Los Angeles Rams ground game is averaging 79.7 yards per contest, and Darrell Henderson Jr. leads the way with 283 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Defensively, Los Angeles is allowing 23 points and 323.4 yards per game. Bobby Wagner leads the Los Angeles Rams with 90 tackles, Aaron Donald has 5 sacks and Nick Scott has 2 interceptions.

The Seahawks are 17-4 ATS in their last 21 games in Week 13.

The Rams are 1-6 ATS in their last 7 home games and 3-9-1 ATS in their last 13 games overall.

The over is 4-1 in Seahawks last 5 road games.

The under is 9-4 in Rams last 13 games overall.

This is a lot of chalk to lay with a road team, especially when the Seattle Seahawks aren't world beaters. Yes, the Seahawks are a playoff contender and playing well for the most part, but their defense leaves a lot to be desired.

With all that said, the Los Angeles Rams are way too banged up on the offensive side of the ball to back with confidence here. The Rams have scored 17 or fewer points in 6 of their last 8 games, and they often look like a team that's waiting for the season to end.

Thick line, but the Rams are out of the playoffs and are licking their wounds.

It's the Seahawks - 6½ for me.

Projected Score: Seattle 27, LA Rams 14

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

LA Chargers at LAS VEGAS Over 49 by 16

The Los Angeles Chargers and Las Vegas Raiders meet Sunday in week 13 NFL action at Allegiant Stadium.

The Los Angeles Chargers have split their last 10 games.

The Las Vegas Raiders have split their last 8 games.

The Los Angeles Chargers have won 4 of their last 5 road games.

Justin Herbert is completing 67.4 percent of his passes for 3,004 yards, 19 touchdowns and 7 interceptions.

Joshua Palmer and Mike Williams have combined for 1,062 receiving yards and 6 touchdowns, while Austin Ekeler has 80 receptions.

The Los Angeles Chargers ground game is averaging 85.8 yards per contest, and Ekeler leads the way with 554 yards and 7 touchdowns.

Defensively, Los Angeles is allowing 25.6 points and 368.7 yards per game. Derwin James Jr. leads the Los Angeles Chargers with 100 tackles, Khalil Mack has 7 sacks and Bryce Callahan has 2 interceptions.

The Las Vegas Raiders have split their last 4 home games.

Derek Carr is completing 63 percent of his passes for 2,730 yards, 18 touchdowns and 7 interceptions.

Davante Adams and Mack Hollins have combined for 1,530 receiving yards and 13 touchdowns, while Josh Jacobs has 40 receptions.

The Las Vegas Raiders ground game is averaging 122.8 yards per contest, and Jacobs leads the way with 1,159 yards and 9 touchdowns.

Defensively, Las Vegas is allowing 25.1 points and 370.6 yards per game. Divine Deablo leads the Las Vegas Raiders with 74 tackles, Maxx Crosby has 10.5 sacks and Duron Harmon has 2 interceptions.

The Chargers are 5-1 ATS in their last 6 road games and 5-2 ATS in their last 7 vs. AFC.

The Raiders are 5-1 ATS in their last 6 vs. AFC West and 5-1 ATS vs. a team with a winning record.

The over is 12-5 in Chargers last 17 games overall.

The over is 4-1 in Raiders last 5 home games.

The Chargers are 5-2 ATS in their last 7 meetings in Las Vegas.

You can make a case for either team here, as there's talent on both sides, and they've been a bit underachieving.

The Los Angeles Chargers are probably the better team, and they're starting to get healthy, but all of their games come down to the wire and I don't like them in the favorite role if we're being honest.

The Raiders still have issues, but they're coming off back to back overtime wins, and that could do wonders for their confidence. The Raiders are at home.

Both defenses allow over 25 points per game. Both teams offenses are clicking now. This has the makings of a shootout. The play here is over 49.

Projected Score: LA Chargers 34, Las Vegas 31

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BET

DALLAS - 8½ Over Indianapolis by 18

The Indianapolis Colts and the Dallas Cowboys meet Sunday in NFL action from AT&T Stadium.

The Colts are fresh off a Monday night matchup versus the Steelers. In that game Indianapolis lost by seven points.

As for the Cowboys, they're sitting at 8-3 overall following a win versus the Giants in their last outing.

Indianapolis hit a 3-2-1 run over their first six games, taking wins over the Chiefs, Broncos and Jaguars in that stretch. The Colts hit a 1-4 run in their next five outings with losses to the Titans, Commanders, Patriots and Eagles.

Matched up against the Steelers on Monday, the Colts were down 16-3 going into the third quarter. Indianapolis scored 14 points in the third but eventually lost 24-17. Quarterback Matt Ryan put up 199 yards with a TD and a pick. Jonathan Taylor led the rush with 86 yards and a score.

Over on the Dallas side, it's been a pretty solid run so far this year. The Cowboys went 4-2 over their first six games, beating the Bengals, Giants, Commanders and Rams. Dallas is 4-1 since then with victories versus the Lions, Bears, Vikings and Giants.

In the Giants game back on Thanksgiving, the Cowboys trailed 13-7 going into the second half. Dallas outscored New York 21-7 from there in a 28-20 comeback win. QB Dak Prescott posted 261 yards with two scores and two picks. Ezekiel Elliott bagged 92 yards and a score rushing.

The Colts are 5-2 ATS in their last seven in December and 7-3 ATS in their last 10 after a straight-up loss. Indianapolis is 2-5 ATS in their last seven road games.

Meanwhile, the Cowboys are 7-0 ATS in the last seven in December and 13-3 ATS versus a team with a losing record. Dallas is 4-1 ATS in the last five at home.

The Cowboys have been playing very well since late October. They're 4-1 in that stretch with a lone OT loss versus the Packers to show for it. Dallas has gotten some extra time to prep following their early Thursday game, and they're facing a Colts team on a short week.

Speaking of Indianapolis, they had a pretty meager offensive outing against the Steelers—and still were in position to win late in the game. The Colts posted 290 total yards (110 rushing) with two turnovers, 25:38 in time of possession and just 3-of-12 conversions on third down.

Matt Ryan seems to be having a tough time this year with the Colts. Furthermore, he will not be able to elude the fierce Cowboy pass rushers. Indy will not hang around for very long with Dallas in a road matchup. Indianapolis is 2-5 ATS in their last seven road games. Dallas is 4-1 ATS in the last five at home. Cowboys win this one comfortably and cover the spread at home.

Projected Score: Dallas 31, Indianapolis 13

THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS

	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
CFB	UTSA - 7.5	USC-1 & Ovr 66	Ohio + 2.5	Troy - 8.5	Boise St -3 & Ovr 51
All Other Saturday CFB Games are Posted Here: Click Guaranteed College Football Picks					
NFL	Browns - 5.5	Falcons Un 43	Seattle - 6.5	Raiders Ov 49	Cowboys - 8.5

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