

Gridiron Gold Sheet Football Newsletter

Only \$1.25
Per Pick

68 NFL Previews & Picks
68 CFB Previews & Picks

Since 1981

Best Value Football Newsletter in the Nation



Dennis Stagliano's Award Winning Football Newsletters

[Click Here](#)

Volume 41 Issue 4

September 14, 2022

MARQUEE GAME PICK PENN ST @ AUBURN

NCAA Landscape

Last Week's Top Performers

Garrett Shrader (SYR vs. CONN): 20/23, 292 yds, 3 TD

Devin Leary (NCST vs. CHSO): 16/25, 238 yds, 4 TD

Evan Hull (NW vs. DUKE): 17 rush, 65 yds, 1 TD

Will Rogers (MSST vs. ARIZ): 39/49, 313 yds, 4 TD

Jordan Addison (USC vs. STAN): 7 rec, 172 yds, 2 TD

Marvin Harrison (OSU vs. ARST): 7 rec, 184 yds, 3 TD

Caleb Williams (USC vs. STAN): 20/27, 341 yds, 4 TD

Raheim Sanders (ARK vs. SCAR): 24 rush, 156 yds, 2 TD

C.J. Stroud (OSU vs. ARST): 16/24, 351 yds, 4 TD

Nicholas Singleton (PSU vs. OHIO): 10 rush, 179 yds, 2 TD

Last Week's Rushing Leaders

Att/Yds/TD

Marquis Crosby (LT) 16 att 196 yds, 2TD

Calvin Hill (TXST) 28 att 195 yds, 1TD

Nicholas Singleton (PSU) 10 att 179 yds, 2TD

DeWayne McBride (UAB) 20 att 177 yds, 1TD

Brad Roberts (AFA) 24 att 174 yds, 3TD

Last Week's Passing Leaders

Cmp/Att Yds TD

Ryan Hilinski (NW) 36/60, 435 yds, 2TD

Seth Henigan (MEM) 24/34, 415 yds, 2TD

Kyle Vantrease (GASO) 37/56, 409 yds, 1TD

Taulia Tagovailoa (UMD) 27/31, 391 yds, 4TD

Max Duggan (TCU) 23/29, 390 yds, 5TD

Last Week's Receiving Leaders

Rec/Yds/TD

Evan Hull (NW) 14 rec 213 yds, 1TD

Ali Jennings (ODU) 8 rec 200 yds, 3TD

Antwane Wells Jr. (SCAR) 8 rec 189 yds, 1TD

Tory Horton (CSU) 9 rec 186 yds, 3TD

Marvin Harrison (OSU) 7 rec 184 yds, 3TD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BEST BETS

BAYLOR - 31 Over Texas St. by 24

The Texas State Bobcats will go against the #9 Baylor Bears in NCAA action in McLane Stadium, TX, on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at 12:00 PM ET.

The Bobcats just finished playing FIU. Texas State ultimately triumphed in the contest handily. Texas State struggled against Nevada in their opening game of the year, losing poorly 38-14 after surrendering 24 points in the third quarter.

Ashtyn Hawkins had 96 yards and two scores on 10 catches, while QB Layne Hatcher completed passes for 289 yards, two touchdowns, and two interceptions.

In their second matchup against FIU, the Bobcats raced out to a 20-6 halftime advantage and cruised to a 41-12 victory.

Calvin Hill ran 28 times for 195 yards and his own touchdown while quarterback Layne Hatcher completed passes for 226 yards and three scores with one interception.

In terms of Baylor, their most recent game was against BYU. The Bears forced double overtime in their second game against BYU with a fourth-quarter score. Note that the Cougars had their two top receivers out of the game. The Bears would ultimately lose in extra time.

On the Bears' side, they had no issues against Albany in their opening game of the year. Baylor blasted double-digit points in each quarter on the way to a 69-10 triumph. In the victory, quarterback Blake Shapen completed 17 of 20 passes for 214 yards and two touchdowns. QB Blake Shapen amassed 137 yards and a touchdown. Hal Presley topped the receivers with 31 yards while Craig Williams contributed 68 run yards.

In their previous game, the Bears came dangerously close to defeating a strong BYU team on the road, but they were hampered by just 137 passing yards, 3.6 yards per play, and a staggering 14 penalties for 117 yards (BYU had nine penalties of their own in a chippy matchup).

The Bears will vent their anger with a decisive victory. With a boatload of points, Texas State should be able to hold on for a cover. Take the Bobcats plus the points.

Projected Score: Baylor 38, Texas St 14

Penn St. - 3 Over AUBURN by 11

The Nittany Lions hope to continue playing well, they're overall record is 2-0. This year, Penn State will look to play better on the road, as they finished the season with a below .500 record at 2-3. In their last 3 road games, they posted an ATS mark of 2-3.

The Nittany Lions are coming off a 46-10 win over Ohio. With the 36-point victory, Penn State also covered the spread. The team finished the game throwing for 3 touchdown passes. Overall, the Nittany Lions had 338 passing yards on a completion percentage of 73.8%. The team ended the game with 3 rushing touchdowns, along with a total of 234 yards on the ground.

The team's leading quarterback is Sean Clifford, who comes into the game with a passer rating of 104.62. Heading into this week's game, he has a total of 495 passing yards. Through the air, the team will be looking for a big game from leading receiver, Mitchell Tinsley. On the season, he has caught 10 for 111 yards. The Nittany Lions have turned to running back Nicholas Singleton a total of 19 times for a total of 201 rushing yards.

So far, the Tigers have an overall record of 2-0 and have not played a game in the SEC. Last year, the Tigers were an above .500 team at home, going 4-3. Across their last 3 home games, they had an ATS record of 1-2-0.

In their previous game, Auburn knocked off San Jose State by a score of 24-16. However, despite the road win, the Tigers did not cover the spread, as they were 24.0-point favorites. To finish the game, the Tigers had a yards per completion figure of 12.0 and a total of 168 yards through the air. However, they did not come up with a touchdown pass through the air. The team ended the game with 3 rushing touchdowns, along with a total of 210 yards on the ground.

Quarterback T.J. Finley comes in the game having completed 22 of 34 passes for a passer rating of 63.24. Receiver Ja'Varrius Johnson heads into the game, as the team's leader in receiving yards, with a total of 158. The Tigers have turned to running back Tank Bigsby a total of 29 times for a total of 198 rushing yards.

In their last 10 contests, the Nittany Lions have a straight up record of 4-6-0, while covering the spread at a rate of 40.0%. The team's average scoring differential was 5.0, as they averaged 25.6 points per game. Defensively, they allowed an average of 20.6. Their last 10 over-under record is 4-6.

Against the spread, the Tigers have gone 3-7-0 over their last 10 games. Straight up they have a record of 4-6-0. Their last 10 over-under record comes in at 3-7-0. Auburn has an even scoring differential in these games, averaging 23.4 points per game and allowing 23.4.

Heading into the game, the Nittany Lions are ranked 35th in points per game. In the passing game, the Nittany Lions are currently one of the leading groups in the country at 323.0 yards per game through the air. This week, the Nittany Lions will be facing an Auburn defense that is ranked 131st in pass yards allowed per game. So far, they are averaging 323.0 yards per game when facing defenses ranked outside the top 50 in passing defense.

So far, the Penn State offense is averaging just 166.0 yards per game on the ground. This production has come on an average of 33.0 rush attempts per game (92nd). This week, the Nittany Lions will be facing an Auburn defense that is ranked 12th in rush yards allowed per game. So far, they are averaging 98.0 yards per game when facing top 25 rush defenses.

Heading into the game, the Nittany Lions will hope for some improved play from their defense, as they are currently 55th at 20.5 points per game allowed.

Heading into this week's matchup, the Tigers will look to improve their offensive output, as they are ranked just 72nd in the NCAA in points scored.

This season, the Tigers have struggled to move the ball through the air, averaging just 190.0 passing yards per game. This week, the Tigers will be facing a Penn State defense that is ranked 110th in pass yards allowed per game. This year, they are averaging 212.0 yards per game when facing defenses ranked outside the top 50 in passing defense.

On the ground, the Auburn offense is averaging 247.5 yards per game, good for 14th in the country. This has come while ranking 48th in attempts at 39.5 per game. This week, the Tigers will be facing a Penn State defense that is ranked 27th in rush yards allowed per game. So far, they have noted faced a defense ranked inside the top 50 for rush defense.

It's tough to win on the road, and I don't like laying points on the road. Nevertheless, the Nittany Lions have a huge advantage at QB. Clifford should have success against a suspect Auburn pass defense. I'm going to lay the field goal and back the Lions over the Tigers. It's the king of the jungle - 3.

Projected Score: Penn St 31, Auburn 20

ALABAMA - 49 Over LA Monroe by 61

The UL Monroe Warhawks and Alabama Crimson Tide meet Saturday in week 3 college football action at Bryant-Denny Stadium. The UL Monroe Warhawks look to get a game above a .500 record. The Alabama Crimson Tide look to start 3-0 for a seventh straight season.

The UL Monroe Warhawks haven't won a road game since October 2019. Chandler Rogers is completing 77.3 percent of his passes for 361 yards, 2 touchdowns and 1 interception. Jevin Frett and Alred Luke have combined for 204 receiving yards and 1 touchdown, while Fred Lloyd Jr. has 2 receptions. The UL Monroe Warhawks ground game is averaging 134.5 yards per contest, and Malik Jackson leads the way with 74 yards and 1 touchdown. Defensively, UL Monroe is allowing 29.5 points and 346.5 yards per game. Tristan Driggers leads the UL Monroe Warhawks with 11 tackles, Cooper Webb has 1 sack and Tavier Williams has 1 pass deflection.

The Alabama Crimson Tide hasn't lost a home game since November 2019. Bryce Young is completing 67.2 percent of his passes for 407 yards, 6 touchdowns and 0 interceptions. Traeshon Holden and Kobe Prentice have combined for 196 receiving yards and 2 touchdowns, while Jahmyr Gibbs has 10 receptions. The Alabama Crimson Tide ground game is averaging 219.5 yards per contest, and Young leads the way with 138 yards and 1 touchdown. Defensively, Alabama is allowing 9.5 points and 253.5 yards per game. Jaylen Moody leads the Alabama Crimson Tide with 16 tackles, Will Anderson Jr. has 1 sack and DeMarcco Hellams has 2 pass deflections.

The Warhawks are 3-9 ATS in their last 12 road games and 4-1 ATS in their last 5 games on grass. The Crimson Tide are 15-5 ATS in their last 20 home games. The under is 6-0 in Warhawks last 6 games overall. The under is 4-0 in Crimson Tide last 4 games overall.

The Alabama Crimson Tide have covered their last 3 games as a favorite of at least 40 points, and that includes a cover this year against Utah State. The Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks have nothing for Alabama in this game on either side of the ball, as they're just happy to be here. Also, you know Nick Saban is in the ears of every Alabama player after that game against Texas, where they probably should have lost. He was really pissed at his team, especially after some of his players did the upside down hookem horns sign. Louisiana-Monroe is going to get an upset and focused Alabama team. The visitor is in the wrong place at the wrong time. I'll lay the chalk with the Crimson Tide in a blowout win and cover.

Projected Score: Alabama 64, LA Monroe 3



NORTH CAROLINA ST - 10½ Over Texas Tech by 3

This season, the Red Raiders have an overall record of 2-0 and have yet to play a game in the Big 12. For the year, the Red Raiders posted a .500 record on the road, going 3-3. In their last 3 away games, they went 2-1-0 against the spread.

In their previous game, Texas Tech knocked off Houston by a score of 33-30. However, grabbing the home win, Red Raiders did not cover the spread, as they were 3.5-point favorites. The team finished the game by throwing for 2 touchdown passes. Overall, the Red Raiders had 351 passing yards on a completion percentage of 61.0%. The team ended the game with 2 rushing touchdowns, along with a total of 117 yards on the ground.

Quarterback Donovan Smith comes in the game having completed 50 of 74 passes for a passer rating of 100.73. Overall, he has a total of 572 passing yards. Through the air, the team will be looking for a big game from leading receiver Jerand Bradley. On the season, he has caught 12 for 158 yards. The top option in the run game for the team is Tahj Brooks, who has carried the ball 24 times for a total of 130 yards.

So far, the Wolfpack have an overall record of 2-0 and have not played a game in the Atlantic Coast. Last year, the Wolfpack were an above .500 team at home, going 7-0. Across their last 3 home games, they had an ATS record of 1-2-0.

The Wolfpack head into this week's game looking to pick up another win after they most recently defeated Charleston Southern by a score of 55-3. In the win, NC State completed 57.5% of their 40 passes, 5 of which resulted in touchdowns. The team ended the game with 2 rushing touchdowns, along with a total of 217 yards on the ground.

Quarterback Devin Leary comes in the game having completed 33 of 58 passes for a passer rating of 103.3. Thayer Thomas leads the team's receiving corps with 6 catches for a total of 72 yards. The Red Raiders have turned to running back Demie Sumo-Karngbaye a total of 21 times for a total of 149 rushing yards.

Over their last 10 games, the Red Raiders have covered the spread at a rate of 50.0%. In these games, they posted a straight-up mark of 5-5-0. The team's average scoring differential was 3.4, as they averaged 31.2 points per game. Defensively, they allowed an average of 27.8. Their last 10 over-under record is 4-5-1.

NC State have gone 8-2-0 over their last 10 contests, including posting an ATS record 5-5-0. On offense, the team averaged 34.6 points per game while allowing 20.7. Their over-under mark (last 10) is 6-4-0.

So far, the Red Raiders are averaging 48.0 points per game on offense, which is good for 12th most in college football.

In the passing game, the Red Raiders are currently one of the leading groups in the country, at 411.5 yards per game through the air. This week, the Red Raiders will be facing an NC State defense that is ranked 120th in pass yards allowed per game. So far, they are averaging 411.5 yards per game when facing defenses ranked outside the top 50 in passing defense.

So far, the Texas Tech offense is averaging just 125.0 yards per game on the ground. This production has come on an average of 36.5 rush attempts per game (70th). This week, the Red

Raiders will be facing an NC State defense ranked 51st in rush yards allowed per game. This year, they have averaged 133.0 yards per game when facing defenses ranked outside the top 50.

Going into the game, the Red Raiders' defensive unit is 50th in the NCAA in points allowed per game at 20.0. Heading into the game, the Wolfpack are ranked 41st in points per game.

This season, the Wolfpack have struggled to move the ball through the air, averaging just 266.0 passing yards per game. This week, the Wolfpack will be facing a Texas Tech defense that is ranked 117th in pass yards allowed per game. This year, they are averaging 266.0 yards per game when facing defenses ranked outside the top 50 in passing defense.

So far, the NC State offense is averaging just 175.0 yards per game on the ground. This production has come on an average of 37.0 rush attempts per game (61st). This week, the Wolfpack will be facing a Texas Tech defense that is 29th in rush yards allowed per game. So far, they have averaged 133.0 yards per game when facing top 25 rush defenses.

The Wolfpack will look to once again play well defensively, as they are currently 23rd in points allowed at 11.5 points per game allowed. But this is a high powered passing attack by the Red Raiders. NC state will hold on for a victory, but Texas Tech will cover the spread.

Projected Score: NC St. 30, Texas Tech 27

HOUSTON - 10½ Over Kansas by 2

This year, Jayhawks have an overall record of 2-0. In addition, they have also played well in the Big 12, going 1-0. Kansas finished the season by winning just 1 time on the road, going 1-5. Over their last 3 road games, they went 3-0-0 vs the spread.

In their previous game, the Jayhawks picked up a 55-42 road win over West Virginia. This was an impressive victory as they were also the 13.5-point underdogs. In the win, Kansas completed 62.1% of their 29 passes, 3 of which resulted in touchdowns. The team ended the game with 4 rushing touchdowns, along with a total of 200 yards on the ground.

The team's leading quarterback is Jalon Daniels, who comes into the game with a passer rating of 116.27. Heading into this week's game, he has a total of 408 passing yards. Quentin Skinner leads the team's receiving corps with 4 catches for a total of 106 yards. The top option in the run game for the team is Devin Neal, who has carried the ball 14 times for a total of 150 yards.

So far, the Cougars have an overall record of 1-1 and have not played a game in the American Athletic. Last year, the Cougars were an above .500 team at home, going 5-1. Across their last 3 home games, they had an ATS record of 2-1-0.

Houston is coming off a 3-point loss to Texas Tech by a score of 33-30. The Cougars entered the game as 3.5-point home underdogs, making this an ATS loss. The team finished the game throwing for 1 touchdown pass. Overall, the Cougars had 266 passing yards on a completion percentage of 51.3%. On the ground, the team ended with 1 rushing touchdown while averaging 3.0 yards per carry for a total of 88 yards.

Heading into the matchup, Clayton Tune has an overall passer rating of 91.99 on a total of 472 yards. Thus far, he has thrown for 4 touchdowns and 1 interception. Wide receiver Nathaniel Dell, has come up with the most production for the team, with a total of 170 receiving yards. In the run game, Brandon Campbell has accumulated 129 on 31 attempts to lead the team.

Over their last 10 games, the Jayhawks have struggled both straight up (3-7-0) as well as vs the spread, going 6-4-0. The team averaged 28.1 points in these games while allowing 39.8. Their last 10 over-under record is 6-4-0.

Against the spread, Houston have gone 5-5-0 in their last 10 games. Over this same period, their straight-up record is 8-2-0. On offense, the team averaged 34.6 points per game while allowing 25.7. Their over-under mark (last 10) is 5-4-1.

So far, the Jayhawks are averaging 55.5 points per game on offense, which is good for 1st most in college football.

Kansas has struggled to move the ball through the air, averaging just 212.0 passing yards per game. This week, the Jayhawks will be facing a Houston defense that is ranked 178th in pass yards allowed per game. So far, they are averaging 212.0 yards per game when facing defenses ranked outside the top 50 in passing defense.

So far, the Kansas offense is 12th in yards per game, despite handing the ball off an average of 33.0 times per contest (90th). This week, the Jayhawks will be facing a Houston defense ranked 46th in rush yards allowed per game. So far, they have not faced a defense ranked inside the top 50 rush defense.

Heading into the game, the Jayhawks will hope for some improved play from their defense, as they are currently 80th at 26.0 points per game allowed.

Heading into this week's matchup, the Cougars will look to improve their offensive output, as they are ranked just 65th in the NCAA in points scored.

This season, the Cougars have struggled to move the ball through the air, averaging just 236.0 passing yards per game. This week, the Cougars will be facing a Kansas defense that is ranked 184th in pass yards allowed per game. This year, they are averaging 236.0 yards per game when facing defenses ranked outside the top 50 in passing defense.

So far, the Houston offense is averaging just 114.0 yards per game on the ground. This production has come on an average of 36.5 rush attempts per game (66th). This week, the Cougars will be facing a Kansas defense that is ranked 86th in rush yards allowed per game. So far, they are averaging 114.0 yards per game when facing defenses ranked outside the top 50.

Heading into the game, the Cougars will hope for some improved play from their defense, as they are currently 107th at 34.0 points per game allowed.

The Jayhawks are vastly improved from previous years whereas the Cougars have regressed from previous years production. This is a big road test for the Jayhawks and with Jalon Daniels, who comes into the game with a passer rating of 116.27 should keep this one very close. Take the points.
Projected Score: Houston 33, Kansas 31

THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS					
	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
CFB	Texas St + 31	Penn St. - 3	Alabama - 49	Texas T + 10½	Kansas + 10½

[CLICK HERE DOWNLOAD THIS WEEKS CFB LINE SHEET](#)

NFL WEEK 2 HAS TWO MONDAY NIGHT GAMES

NFL WEEK 1 UPSETS AND NAIL BITERS ATS

NFL Week 1 recap: Upsets, nail-biters . . . and a tie

The NFL season may have kicked off on Thursday, but Sunday's games set the tone for a ton of game-winning kick attempts, nail-biters, upsets and five new coaches getting a win in their season debut.

And a tie, already. That's right. The Indianapolis Colts and Houston Texans settled for a 20-20 tie, marking the fifth straight year there's been at least one tied game.

Five games come down to last-second field-goal attempts.

Want some nail-biters to start the season? Well, you're in luck. Five games came down to last-second field-goal attempts — New Orleans Saints vs. Atlanta Falcons, Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cincinnati Bengals, Cleveland Browns vs. Carolina Panthers, New York Giants vs. Tennessee Titans, Indianapolis Colts vs. Tennessee Titans — with three ending in a game-winning kick.

Cleveland's Cade York nailed a game-winning 58-yard field goal against Carolina with eight seconds to go in regulation, and after missing a game-winning field-goal attempt earlier in overtime, Chris Boswell hit a 53-yard field goal as time expired in overtime to give Pittsburgh the 23-20 upset win over the reigning AFC Champion Cincinnati Bengals. The Titans' Randy Bullock missed a potential 47-yard game-winning field goal attempt against the New York Giants.

New coach, no problem.

10 new coaches were hired in 2022, and of the nine who coached their respective team for the first time, six of them — Chicago's Matt Eberflus, Tampa Bay's Todd Bowles, New York Giants' Brian Daboll, Minnesota's Kevin McConnell, Miami's Mike McDaniel, New Orleans' Dennis Allen — recorded a win in their season debut. Houston's Lovie Smith had to settle for a tie and Denver's Nathaniel Hackett makes his head coaching debut on Monday Night Football against the Seattle Seahawks.

Unders hit with ease.

The under hit to begin the NFL season on Thursday between the Buffalo and the Los Angeles Rams, and that trend continued on Sunday. Of the 14 games played on Sunday, the under hit in nine.

New quarterback, new beginning.

Of the six teams that opened the year with a new quarterback — Atlanta, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Washington, Cleveland and Indianapolis — three of them recorded wins. Indianapolis' Matt Ryan had to settle for a tie, but Mitchell Trubisky, Jacoby Brissett and Carson Wentz all recorded wins with their new teams.

Chiefs dominate Cardinals, extend season-opening win streak to eight.

Those who thought the Chiefs were going to struggle without wide receiver Tyreek Hill are kicking themselves right now. Kansas City put up a league-best 44 points behind five TD passes from Patrick

Mahomes in a 44-21 whupping of the Arizona Cardinals, extending the Chiefs' season-opening winning streak to eight.

Rodgers, Packers lose season opener for second straight season.

Aaron Rodgers and the Packers lost their second-straight season opener, falling to the Minnesota Vikings, 23-7 on Sunday. The Vikings' Justin Jefferson finished with nine grabs for 184 yards and two touchdowns while the Minnesota defense shut out Green Bay in the first half.

AFC South, NFC West start out winless.

Remember when the NFC West was considered the best division in football? Yeah, those days are done. If Seattle loses to Denver on Monday Night Football, the NFC West will be the only division in football without a win. We're aware no team in the AFC South recorded a win in Week 1, but at least Indianapolis and Houston didn't lose.

NFC East, AFC North start out strong.

Three of the four teams in the NFC East and AFC North recorded wins on Sunday. It's possible each team in the AFC North could be 1-0, but the Steelers and Bengals played each other to begin the season.

Looking ahead to Week 2

The Kansas City Chiefs and Los Angeles Chargers open Week 2 on Thursday night. It's the first time Amazon Prime will broadcast an NFL game. The last time the Chiefs and Chargers played each other on a Thursday night was back in Week 15 last year, with KC pulling out the 34-28 win in overtime. Despite being on the road, the Chiefs are 3.5-point favorites, with the over/under set at 54.

MY BOOKIE

PROMOCODE
GRIDIRONGOLD

DOUBLE YOUR FIRST DEPOSIT
UP TO \$1000

PATRICK MAHOMES



BET NOW

Last Week's Top Performers	Week 1 Passing Leaders
Patrick Mahomes* (KAN): 30/39, 360 yds, 5 TD	Cmp/Att Yds TD
Justin Jefferson* (MIN): 9 rec, 184 yds, 2 TD	Patrick Mahomes (KAN) 30/39 360 yds, 5TD
Josh Allen* (BUF): 26/31, 297 yds, 3 TD	Matt Ryan (IND) 32/50 352 yds, 1TD
Saquon Barkley* (NYG): 18 rush, 164 yds, 1 TD	Joe Burrow (CIN) 33/53 338 yds, 2TD
Carson Wentz* (WAS): 27/41, 313 yds, 4 TD	Carson Wentz (WAS) 27/41 313 yds, 4TD
Jonathan Taylor (IND): 31 rush, 161 yds, 1 TD	Joe Flacco (NYJ) 37/59 307 yds, 1TD
Cooper Kupp (LAR): 13 rec, 128 yds, 1 TD	
Davante Adams (LVR): 10 rec, 141 yds, 1 TD	

D'Andre Swift (DET): 15 rush, 144 yds, 1 TD Jalen Hurts (PHI): 18/32, 243 yds, 0 TD	
Week 1 Rushing Leaders Att/Yds/TD Saquon Barkley (NYG) 18 att 164 yds, 1TD Jonathan Taylor (IND) 31 att 161 yds, 1TD D'Andre Swift (DET) 15 att 144 yds, 1TD Nick Chubb (CLE) 22 att 141 yds, 0TD Leonard Fournette (TAM) 21 att 127 yds, 0TD	Week 1 Receiving Leaders Rec/Yds/TD Justin Jefferson (MIN) 9 rec 184 yds, 2TD A.J. Brown (PHI) 10 rec 155 yds, 0TD Davante Adams (LVR) 10 rec 141 yds, 1TD Ja'Marr Chase (CIN) 10 rec 129 yds, 1TD Cooper Kupp (LAR) 13 rec 128 yds, 1TD

Cowboys: Dak Prescott needs thumb surgery, will miss 6-8 weeks. Prescott fractured the joint above his thumb during the Cowboys' 19-3 loss to the Buccaneers. The injury requires surgery and will keep Prescott on the shelf for at least 6-8 weeks. Prescott was having one of the worst performances of his career before suffering the fracture — he completed just 14-of-29 passes (48.3%) for 134 yards, no touchdowns, and 1 interception.

Replacement: Fifth-year vet Cooper Rush, who completed 7-of-13 passes for 64 yards off the bench, will take over as the starter. In one start last season — which resulted in a win over the Vikings — Rush completed 30-of-47 passes (63.8%) for 422 yards, 3 touchdowns, and 1 interception. CeeDee: Rush will need to get supposed star receiver CeeDee Lamb going — last night, he caught just 2 of 11 targets for 29 yards. Rush's first test will come against the Bengals next week. He's also likely to face the Giants, Commanders, Rams, Eagles, and Lions.

Jimmy? Fans and analysts have already begun calling on the Cowboys to trade for Jimmy Garoppolo.

Steelers: T.J. Watt and Najee Harris suffered potentially serious Week 1 injuries. Watt had three doctors opinions on his torn pectoral in the Steelers' 23-20 win over the Bengals. The reigning Defensive Player of the Year will be out until October at best.

Replacement: Malik Reed, who the Steelers got in a trade with the Broncos last month, is next up on the depth chart. Outside linebacker, Alex Highsmith, had three sacks against Cincinnati.

Harris: Harris left the game with an ankle injury. The injury is concerning because the 24-year-old missed practice time in training camp with a Lisfranc (foot) sprain.

Optimism: Multiple reporters are indicating that there is initial optimism surrounding the injury and that Harris may be able to play in Week 2 against the Patriots.

Replacement: Harris was replaced by undrafted rookie Jaylen Warren, who ran for 7 yards on three carries. The Steelers also have Benny Snell at the position.

49ers 49ers RB Elijah Mitchell spotted in a “substantial knee brace”. Mitchell injured his knee in the 49ers' 19-10 loss to the Bears.

Replacement: Jeff Wilson Jr. stepped into the primary running back role and finished the game with 30 scrimmage yards (22 rushing, 8 receiving) on 11 touches. Wilson will likely start until Mitchell returns. RB Depth: In addition to Wilson, the 49ers have third-round rookie Tyrion Davis-Price and undrafted rookie Jordan Mason.

Trey Lance, who completed just 13-of-28 passes (46.4%) for 164 yards, no touchdowns, and 1 interception, acknowledged that he has “a lot of stuff to clean up” after the game. Kyle Shanahan expressed frustration with the team’s twelve penalties.

Chargers: Keenan Allen has a hamstring injury; new pass-catching threats emerge for Justin Herbert. Allen left the Chargers’ 24-19 win over the Raiders with the injury. After the game, Allen downplayed the severity of the issue, though implied that he is unlikely to play this Thursday against the Chiefs. Allen caught 4 of 4 targets for 66 yards before exiting.

DeAndre Carter, a journeymen 29-year-old receiver, caught 3 of 4 targets for 64 yards and a touchdown. He and Josh Palmer (3 catches for 5 yards) will be in line for significant roles until Allen returns. Tight end Gerald Everett had a strong debut, catching 3 of 4 targets for 54 yards and a TD.

Seahawks: Seahawks' hard-hitting strong safety Jamal Adams suffered a serious left quad injury on Monday night. Adams appeared to suffer a torn left quadriceps tendon, which would end his season. If confirmed by MRI, the 26 year old will undergo surgery with a rehab timetable of 9-12 months.

Year of the WR: Justin Jefferson, A.J. Brown, Davante Adams, and Ja’Marr Chase wow in Week 1.

Jefferson: Jefferson caught 9 of 11 targets for a career-high 184 yards and 2 touchdowns in the Vikings' 23-7 win over the Packers. He had a 34% target share.

Brown: Brown caught 10 of 13 targets for 155 yards in the Eagles' 38-35 win over the Lions. He had a 41% target share. The 155 receiving yards were the most ever for an Eagles player in his first game.

Adams: Adams reeled in 10 of 17 targets for 141 yards and a touchdown in the Raiders' 24-19 loss to the Chargers. He had a 45% target share.

Chase: Chase caught 10 of 16 targets for 129 yards and a touchdown in the Bengals’ 23-20 loss to the Steelers. He had a 30% target share. Tee Higgins left the game with a concussion.

PRO FOOTBALL BEST BETS

NY Giants - 2½ Over Carolina by 10

The Carolina Panthers come to MetLife Stadium on Sunday for an NFC showdown with the New York Giants. It was a rough week for the Panthers, as they were out of the game against Cleveland early before storming back and taking the lead with just over a minute left. But a late FG drive by the Browns spoiled it and sent the Panthers into week two at 0-1. They come to face a Giants team that faced their own issues on Sunday but managed to pull through in the end with a big 21-20 win over the Titans on the road. They return home in what seems like a close matchup on Sunday.

Dealing with a new look at QB with Baker Mayfield, the Panthers don't have high expectations this season, and some of that bore out on Sunday. In what seemed like a winnable home spot against Cleveland, they spent most the game one or two TDs behind before they stormed back with a TD from Christian McCaffrey, a Mayfield TD run, and a big connection between Mayfield and Robbie Anderson, but their defense couldn't hold it, with the Jacoby Brissett-led Browns' offense engineering a late drive for the FG and the win.

Among the positive signs was the mere presence of McCaffrey, and even if he was muted other than the TD score, he should produce. Robbie Anderson getting involved was big, as he was virtually invisible at times last season. And Mayfield should connect increasingly with DJ Moore in upcoming games. But there will be games where Mayfield is making mistakes and undermining the whole offense, and we saw a touch of that on Sunday. It's just that the whole team is sort of a drag. You have some talent with McCaffrey and Moore, but there are flaws all over the field—a dicey supporting aerial crew, an offensive line that doesn't always support the effort, and a defense that is short on star-power and playmaking. There just isn't a lot to get excited about on this Carolina sideline, while you have to keep in mind that the talent they do have can surface in a big way at a given time.

Luckily for the Panthers in this matchup, they are facing a squad with many of the same issues at play. Beating the Titans on the road, however, shows they may be more primed to come out of that role. Still, the Giants are troubled with inconsistent QB play, along with poor offensive line play and a slew of pass-catchers who show up some days and don't on others. And with Saquon Barkley serving notice that he's ready to reclaim his vintage form, they also have one major star in the backfield like the Panthers who can carry the team on his shoulders.

With new head coach Brian Daboll in there running the show and instilling his offensive philosophy, we saw some things pay off. Sure, they're handcuffed, without many of the trinkets, Daboll had at his disposal in Buffalo. But we saw QB Daniel Jones running the offense well and, other than a pick, was 17-for-21 with two big TD throws, including one late that cinched the upset road win. We saw some of the big plays we haven't been seeing from the Giants in recent seasons, with Barkley and Sterling Shepard each making long highlight plays on the afternoon. And with 164 yards and a TD on the ground, along with six receptions, the offseason hype regarding the possible resurgence of Barkley might be more than just wishful thinking. And let's not forget how Daboll and the Giants went for two to win the game. That kind of winning attitude could go a long way.

We need to see more from the Giants' defense. They took what looked to be an off-key Tennessee offense and held them to a reasonable amount, kept Derrick Henry in check, and held the Titans to one second-half score. They're still a unit that figures to get exploited from time to time, and Carolina has some of the horses to do it on a day where they're on-point. The Giants' "D" isn't a group that is big on game-changing plays, they might have trouble getting after the passer this season, and they are far from invulnerable aurally.

Both teams have issues and will see uneven trajectories this season, making it all the more important to not go crazy with week one takeaways. One could notice how the Panthers were overtaken by a rough-looking Browns team while the Giants overcame last year's top seed from the AFC, and the mind runs with the story. But both games were last-second affairs that were up in the air. They could have gone either way and going the way they did shouldn't be the ultimate guiding light looking ahead. Not to get all Dennis Green about it, but these teams aren't all that dissimilar to what we thought they were, regardless of their respective week one results.

The thought on Daboll's arrival to the Giants was that it couldn't get any worse, meaning they thought Daboll's offense was a better fit but wondered if they had the horses to carry it out. And that might still end up being a problem. But with a healthy and fast-starting Barkley, things could take off with the

new offensive outlook. Carolina, meanwhile, seems to be a dangerous opponent—able to wield weaponry like McCaffrey. And Mayfield can get hot. But I think consistency is going to be hard to achieve, and I think the Giants give them a real test on Sunday.

The Giants went into Tennessee and held the Titans in check. QB Daniel Jones ran the offense well and, other than a pick, was 17-for-21 with two big TD throws. If the Giants can hold the Titans ground game as they did last week, they should have success against the Panthers. Dallas lost last week and the Giants are thinking big right now. McCafferty is a star but Barkley is a beast. I'm going with the resurgent Giants to start 2-0 and cover the small number at home.

Projected Score: NY Giants 27, Carolina 17

Indianapolis - 4 Over JACKSONVILLE by 11

Week two features an AFC South matchup with the Indianapolis Colts taking on the Jacksonville Jaguars at TIAA Bank Field on Sunday. Indy had a rough week one, and their score with Houston was one of the more-jarring ones on a slate full of upsets. But a big late comeback allowed them to take the game to OT, and after a back-and-forth ten minutes, the Colts had an opening week tie. It could have been worse. The Jags gave it a good go on Sunday, holding the lead against the Commanders at one point in the second half before getting nipped at the wire late, 28-23. Can they do better in their home opener, or will the Colts look to take last week out on their divisional rival?

All said, a tie against a divisional team that they've had the measure of recently is a definite letdown for the Colts. And looking at the game, once they started getting Jonathan Taylor going, with Ryan connecting with guys like Michael Pittman, one could easily have forecasted a win in the extra period. But just as they seemed to gain momentum, they couldn't push through. They weren't really getting after the quarterback or making big plays on defense. And they squandered a 161-yard game from Taylor and a 121-yard game from Pittman. The early reviews on Matt Ryan as the new Colts' quarterback were a bit mixed. He did have 352 yards and worked well with the Colts' main weaponry, but he was a bit errant with his throws and had trouble hanging on to the ball.

Still, with some people already missing and with Ryan in his first game, maybe this isn't the time to hold things too much against the Colts. That offensive production will eventually turn over into the production of actual points. And those guys aren't going away. With Taylor, they have one of the better backs in the league, a guy who can carry an offense on his back and he kind of did that in week one. The word that Ryan was connecting well with Pittman in camp was illustrated on Sunday with Pittman targeted 13 times for nine receptions and a TD. With time, we will see more from the supporting cast, with Nyheim Hines, Parris Campbell, Ashton Dulin, Alec Pierce, and Mo Alie-Cox getting more involved.

In the results-based world of pro football, it's hard to heap any praise on the Jags after losing to the not-all-that-commanding Commanders. It's still fair to say that there was more optimism present on offense. Trevor Lawrence seemed palpably different or at least a little sharper. Wide receiver Christian Kirk delivered nicely in his first game with Jacksonville. Other new additions, TE Evan Engram and WR Zay Jones, also had some good moments. They look to get some contributions from former high draft pick RB Travis Etienne, who was productive. James Robinson said to be hurting but didn't show it with two TDs. Having two backs who are both adept at catching balls out of the backfield could really pay off for this offense down the road. It wasn't an easy road game, and now at home against a familiar rival, maybe we'll see better this week. For what it's worth, they split two games with the Colts last season, losing by one score and winning the last game of the season. A lot of pieces are different this season.

We have this view of the Colts that they're almost bulletproof. We sort of take for granted that they're coached well and strong in areas that don't get a lot of attention, namely in the trenches. We've seen quarterbacks, many in their twilights, perform OK in this offense, as the Colts have maintained a level of contender, even if they're infrequently sited as a team that could win the conference. But the injury status of Shaquille Leonard needs to be checked leading up to this game, as he is really the heart of the defense, and they're not the same without him. And maybe we sign off too easily on this whole "reborn in a new offense" narrative with guys like Matt Ryan.

Some enhanced aerial weaponry and a viable run-game, along with what should be a surge from Lawrence this season, make the Jaguars an interesting dark horse moving forward. These divisional road games can be trickier than they look on paper, as the Colts well found out last week. Two such games to open the season isn't ideal, and I think the Colts will find themselves right in this game. With the way former Indy QB Carson Wentz took this Jacksonville defense to school last Sunday, this might prove to be a better spot for Ryan and the Colts. I'll take Indianapolis minus the 4 points.

Projected Score: Indianapolis 31, Jacksonville 20

LA RAMS - 10½ Over Atlanta by 21

The Atlanta Falcons come to SoFi Stadium on Sunday for an NFC showdown with the Los Angeles Rams. Neither team had an enjoyable week one with painful losses to start their seasons. In the season-opener on Thursday Night Football, the defending Super Bowl champion Rams sponged an ugly 31-10 loss to the Bills where not a lot went right at all. For the Falcons, an upset win over the visiting Saints seemed all but assured with a 26-10 lead in the 4th quarter before the wheels came off with the Saints storming back with the proverbial last-second FG to win, 27-26. Can the Falcons dust themselves off for this difficult road spot, or will the Rams bounce back?

There are points in a season where a team like the Falcons could perhaps expect a home Rams team to be sleeping on them a bit. With a really rough loss in the season opener on Thursday Night Football, the Rams might be more pumped than they'd otherwise be, along with getting some more time to ruminate on it. Not that the component of urgency is the only guiding light. We may, in fact, be seeing a Super Bowl hangover play out, though that's something that wouldn't be proven by one loss, especially to the leading Super Bowl favorite heading into the season in the Bills. But they didn't really seem ready to hit the ground running, did they?

The Rams will not be seeing many of the same things they saw last week—a surging aerial game, along with a "D" that is strong across all areas with a significant playmaking element. This is a spot where both sides of the ball can get untracked for the Rams against an Atlanta team that, while not being without certain strong points, is not the kind of team that should threaten an irritated Rams team looking to atone. While keeping in mind that last week's failings came in a different context, there are some things we want to keep an eye on with the Rams.

It's easy for any team to fall prey defensively to the Bills, a theme we will see play out all season throughout the league. Despite the Bills getting loose, especially aerially, the Rams still flexed their considerable big-play ability, putting pressure on Allen and registering a few picks. Of more significant concern is the other side of the ball. We'll see if Matthew Stafford's elbow becomes a problem and compromises his level of play, as three picks last week could suggest. There seems to be an identity problem in the backfield with Darrell Henderson and Cam Akers, as they need one to establish momentum. It's going to be key because the aerial game as it stands isn't that great beyond the bankable presence of Cooper Kupp. Some guys will eventually file back into the rotation, and some newer pieces who flopped in week one like Allen Robinson could come around, but it looks to be a far cry from what we saw last season in their Super Bowl run.

With Marcus Mariota behind center and longtime starter Matt Ryan gone, the new-look Falcons offense will take some getting used to. Mariota wasn't bad. He showed some lively legs, even if he wasn't terribly electric with his arm, other than making an early promising connection with rookie Drake London. They got a big game from RB Cordarrelle Patterson and with Mariota's legs, that's a promising development on offense. But it remains to be seen if Mariota has enough passing ability to bring the best out of London and a really good young tight end in Kyle Pitts. Suffice to say, the Rams' secondary, which did not look good in week one, will be in for an easier game this Sunday against what might be a limited Atlanta aerial attack.

One major question for the Falcons, and especially for this game, is their defense. They have standouts, and that's a start, with pass-rushing threat Grady Jarrett already off to a fast start, along with AJ Terrell being one of the best young corners in the game. They will have soft spots elsewhere, but at least they're facing a Rams team that is a little dicey other than at the top. Maybe Terrell can quell Kupp, and the rest of the unit can hang in there with what is suddenly a less-than-exceptional supporting cast for the Rams' offense. But despite what was a good game for the most part for this Atlanta unit, it's troubling when your sails are filled with the wind of a new season, and you can't hold a 16-point lead when you're into the fourth quarter. That type of collapse doesn't bode well for when you're playing the Rams or just trying to cover spreads in general, although Atlanta did, in fact, cover the spread on Sunday.

Some things seem to be lining up favorably for the Rams this week, including the matchup of this particular opponent, the location, the long week, and in a weird way—the fact that they came up short in week one. And not only did they come up short, they were embarrassed. It seems overly simple, but I do expect a greater level of effort this week than you'd typically see for this level of opponent. The Falcons might not be as bad as some think, but at home in their division is a little different than a long road trip against the defending champs—an irritated group looking to take it out on the Falcons. I suspect they'll do just that and win and cover at home on Sunday.

Projected Score: LA Rams 34, Atlanta Orleans 13

CLEVELAND - 5½ Over NY Jets by 14

The New York Jets come to FirstEnergy on Sunday for an AFC showdown with the Cleveland Browns. The Jets weren't able to get off to a fast start on Sunday, falling to the Ravens, 24-9, with a late Jets TD, only partly masking what was a truly rough week one. They are on the road this week but maybe get a more-cooperative opponent in the Browns. Cleveland, however, surprised some people in week one and, despite a roster that doesn't inspire confidence, performed capably on the road against the Panthers on Sunday, coming on late to win, 26-24, in an upset.

With Watson suspended, the prospects of soldiering ahead with Jacoby Brissett might seem daunting. He's a professional backup and capable in an understated way. He's not much of a passer but can be a decent game-manager that keeps a team on point until whoever the starter is returns. He has an OK line to work with a backfield that a lot of people seemed to forget about, with productive Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt. They were instrumental on Sunday, with Chubb running for 141 yards, with Hunt both running for and catching a TD. Brissett didn't throw any picks and managed to avoid the Panthers' pass-rush for the most part in what was a big win over Carolina and their former QB Baker Mayfield.

We also saw the Browns come up big on Sunday from a clutch standpoint. After taking a commanding lead, the Panthers began to surge in what looked like a telltale shift in momentum. But just as the offense looked to be going into the deep freeze for the balance of the day, the Browns came up with one more drive to clinch the win. They still have tools on defense, with Myles Garrett

registering two sacks. Grant Delpit got a pick, as maybe they now get a belated contribution from their former high draft pick. With some real talent on defense and a big run game, maybe the Browns can surpass their expectations while also keeping in mind that a win over Carolina does not necessarily suggest a revival. But they get another doable spot here and look to get out to a fast start.

On one hand, Jets' QB Joe Flacco threw for over 300 yards, but it took nearly 60 attempts to do so, with the Jets playing from behind. He threw just one TD in garbage time, along with a pick and a gaggle of poor throws in spots that could have turned the game around some. The word is that former top pick Zach Wilson will need more time before he is able to return. They also have Mike White, who performed well as a backup last season in the event that Flacco suffers. But with this offensive line and some inconsistent guys at the skill positions, it doesn't really all come down to the quarterback.

For the purposes of this matchup, the Jets are dealing with a major deficit in the trenches. With difference-makers lining both lines of scrimmage for the Browns, they have a decided edge in this area. Brissett has his issues, and the aerial game he works with enters 2022 with a lot of question marks. But that line is a major weapon for a QB like Brissett when he wants to lean on his run game. Whoever is behind center for the Jets enjoys no such luxuries. And against this Cleveland "D" and namely their pass-rush, it's a rough game for whichever QB is behind center for the Jets.

Week two can be tricky for bettors who made overly concrete evaluations in week one. That could really be the case with a Jets team starting an old retread like Joe Flacco, with all due respect to a Super Bowl champion. But this is not what they drew up, so let's not be so hard on the Jets while also keeping in mind that they could certainly continue right on being subpar this season. The potential of their offense is not likely to be brought out by Flacco, and a defense getting no support from the other side of the ball isn't likely to show its teeth either. But let's also make sure not to lock in the perception of what we're seeing because a new QB in there could throw a new light on things.

Even in a hail of misery on Sunday where the Jets managed a lousy field goal until very late, you could see vestiges of something that could deliver. In an offense without a real star, there is, in fact, some depth that could trouble an incomplete defense like Cleveland's. Breece Hill showed some teeth at RB and, with Michael Carter, makes a decent 1-2 punch. No one is going to get excited about guys like Elijah Moore, Corey Davis, and Braxton Berrios, but these guys can produce. And rookie first-rounder Garrett Wilson served notice with four receptions. Along with a pass-rush that wasn't completely dormant, along with a pick from DJ Reed, the Jets gave at least offered a little taste of what they hope is a defense that makes more plays this season.

Again, the Jets could look better, and not many teams in recent years have looked that great against the Ravens in week one for whatever reason. I just think at home; the Browns are poised to get off to a nice start, relying on some team strengths to see them through this week. The strength on the O-line should allow the Browns to unleash the productivity of Chubb and Hunt once again, with Brissett doing just enough good and avoiding the bad to get over the pont spread on Sunday. I'll take Cleveland - 6 in this one.

Projected Score: Cleveland 27, NY Jets 13

THIS WEEKS GRIDIRON GOLD SHEET BEST BETS					
	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet	Best Bet
NFL	Giants - 2½	Colts - 4	Rams - 10½	Browns - 5½	

[CLICK HERE DOWNLOAD THIS WEEKS NFL FOOTBALL LINE SHEET](#)